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ENGLAND AND THE CONTINENT.

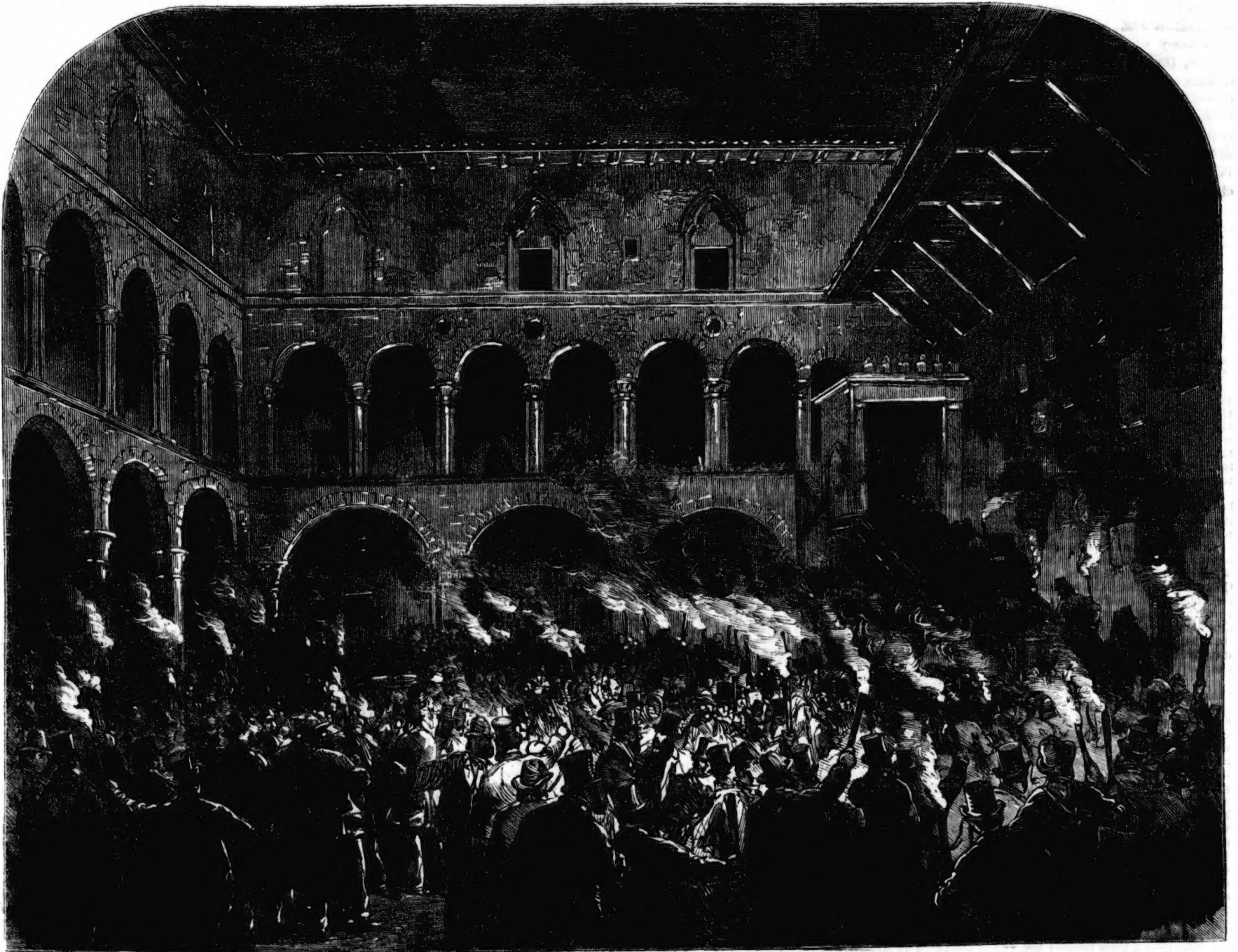
THE discussion which took place the other night in the House of Lords on the present state of affairs presented several points of interest. It was evident from Lord Clarendon's speech that England had tried to persuade France to co-operate with her in endeavouring to keep the peace of Europe, and that France had not shown herself at all inclined to join us in our proposed work of mediation. There are certain journals which ought to be looked upon as nothing less than public enemies, in whose Paris correspondence it is constantly repeated that the Emperor of the French desires peace, and nothing but peace; whereas what he really wishes for is that Europe should believe in his peaceful intentions, so that, when the moment for action arrives, he may deal a sudden blow with all the more effect. Lord Clarendon, who is an exception among Foreign Ministers from the fact that he has been a professional diplomatist, and has passed through all the grades of the diplomatic service, would not, until he was pressed, give any plain account of the reasons which had rendered it impossible for England to appear in the character of peacemaker. In reply, however, to Lord Hardwicke's inquiry whether or not we had "gone to some neighbouring great Power" to request that it would join us in making

peaceful representations to the intending combatants, Lord Clarendon at last stated that, after ascertaining that England's good offices, unsupported, were not acceptable, the Government addressed itself to other Powers to know whether they took the same view that we did, and that "when we found that we should be left in the position in which we found ourselves at first we did not press our good offices further."

In the course of the same discussion Earl Russell took occasion to correct a very general, and, as it is now appears, erroneous impression which had somehow got abroad with respect to a celebrated statement made by his Lordship some two or three years ago on the subject of our foreign policy. Earl Russell was understood to say, that when neither our interests nor our honour demanded that we should go to war, we ought to remain at peace. A fine elastic proposition like this ought to satisfy both the most warlike and the most peaceful. We suppose and hope that no member of the Peace Society is base enough to maintain that we ought to suffer our interests to be damaged and our honour tarnished rather than strike a blow; and we are sure that the most pugnacious politician would never pretend for a moment that we ought to fight without either a material or a moral cause on which to found a quarrel. But, now that England has for the moment

no dispute with any European nation, Earl Russell has become intolerably heroic; and, as the celebrated "rest and be thankful" did not mean "rest permanently and be thankful," but only "rest for a little while," so the equally celebrated saying, that it is the duty of England to abstain from war when "neither her interests nor her honour" are engaged, meant that "if neither our honour nor our interests are concerned, we must consider long, and with great deliberation, before entering into a war." In other words, though the quarrel may in no way affect us, we may fight all the same, only we must not do so without "long consideration and great deliberation!"

However, we are no believers in these principles of policy, which are, in fact, only so many phrases intended to be brought forward from time to time to serve an occasion. When the Italians were getting rid of their little Italian Dukes, great use was made of the "doctrine of non-intervention," as it was called, though it would really be just as sensible to talk of the "doctrine" of hitting or of not hitting a man when he is down. But, when the Garibaldians landed at Naples and drove the King and his army away, the "doctrine" which had done such good service a little while before was laid aside: the patriotic invader received powerful assistance



DEMONSTRATION IN FAVOUR OF WAR IN THE COURTYARD OF THE UFFIZI PALACE, FLORENCE.

from the English fleet; and the right of the Italians, in all parts of the Italian peninsula, to govern themselves and choose their own form of government, was the only "principle" recognised in England.

Instead of saying pedantically, "Here we will apply the 'principle' or 'doctrine' of non-intervention," an English Minister ought always to say, "Here we will not intervene;" for there are cases in which English intervention may be, and cases in which it may not be, necessary; and no fixed rule—moral, commercial, or political—can be laid down in the matter. In former days, as Earl Grey well explained—and as, by-the-way, Earl Russell has himself explained in his work on the English Constitution—those who put forward the principle of non-intervention only meant that no State had a right to interfere with the internal affairs of another, and that it was an abuse and a scandal if any nation prevented another from settling its internal government in the manner it thought best for its own welfare and prosperity. On the other hand, no one ever dreamed that any principle existed in virtue of which a powerful State was at liberty to invade and subjugate a weak one, without other States, though not immediately interested in the result, having the right to interfere. The theory has always been—and our actual civilisation is in a great measure founded upon it—that the nations of Europe form one family, and that one member of this family cannot injure another without all the members being aggrieved, and having the right to protest and, in certain cases, to interfere. Indeed, this so-called right is less a right than a duty. A wrongful act, unpunished, unresisted, and unprotested against, becomes a precedent; and, after many such precedents, every weak Power in the vicinity of powerful neighbours would find itself left absolutely at their mercy.

Fortunately, though we do not know what may be in store for us, it is quite impossible for us now to take either side in the war which seems to be impending between Austria and Prussia, and between Austria and Italy—or, perhaps, we should say, between Austria on one side and Prussia, Italy, and France on the other. If the war really breaks out, we shall not sympathise thoroughly with any of the combatants, though we shall wish the Italians success as far as the acquisition of Venetia is concerned. Italy, since the existence of that kingdom, has never made any secret of her intention to fight for Venetia at the first opportunity, and that opportunity seems now on the point of presenting itself. At the same time, it is impossible not to see that Austria is about to be made the victim of a conspiracy, of which the magnitude is not yet known to us. Prussia and Italy have all but declared war against her. Russia contents herself with keeping a large army of observation on the Austrian frontier, while France, through her Emperor, utters maledictions on the treaties of 1815, by which Austria holds Venetia. The destruction of the Austrian empire is a thing which is, at least, "on the cards;" and this would be but a prelude to a redistribution of territory in other parts of Europe, by which, at last, the position of England could not fail to be affected. Belgium, for instance, on whose territory Prussia has certain claims, as well as France, already imagines that she is in some danger, for it is now reported that the whole of the Belgian army is about to be placed on a war footing.

THE WAR FEELING IN ITALY.

EVERYTHING in Italy denotes the most enthusiastic feeling for war, in order to wrest Venetia from Austria. The regular army has been mobilised, munitions of war have been provided, financial measures have been taken to provide funds, and volunteer corps are springing up in all directions. A decree was issued on Tuesday, accepting the services of the volunteers, and placing them under the command of Garibaldi. This measure has been taken in consequence of the general expression of popular opinion, which culminated in the demonstration at Florence, depicted in the Engraving on the preceding page. The Florence correspondent of the *Telegraph* gives the subjoined account of the state of feeling he has witnessed; and though his views may be a little coloured by the enthusiasm with which he is surrounded, there can be no question that the whole of the Italian kingdom is eager to make an effort to free their brethren in Venetia from Austrian domination. The correspondent referred to says:—

"Perhaps no human foresight or skill of statesmanship could have averted from Austria the perils which now beset her; though it cannot be alleged that what has now come to pass has not been long foretold; but, perhaps, none of us imagined that, when the moment of danger came, Austria would still further hasten and aggravate its arrival by the repetition of an old and terribly-paid-for blunder. When Austria had so failed to appreciate the real significance of Count Bismarck's policy as to imagine, firstly, that she could overawe him with threats; and, secondly, that she could cozen him by withdrawing them, she next imagined that she could divert his attention from her German designs by diverting her own attention from her Italian difficulties. She armed against Prussia, and was met by counter-armament. Meanwhile Italy, sorely concerned as she was by internal anxieties, yet bound to keep a watchful eye on the rising perplexities of her standing foe, in order not to let slip the opportunity which their culmination might bring, could do no more than be prepared for the worst, at the same time that she was forced to proclaim aloud her determination to be prepared for the best. Austria heard threats both north and south, and her conscience made her as afraid of the feigned menaces in the last quarter as of the bona fide ones in the first. In a moment of supreme hallucination she conceived the empty dream that, by facing right round and haughtily confronting the wordy war at her back, she would terrify it into silence, and propitiate the real tempest facing her in front. She doubled her danger by the same movement with which she doubled her foes. Far from being silenced by this sudden and martial manoeuvre, Italy was compelled, no less for the sake of her internal peace and security than for dignity's sake and the cause of honour, to reply to the sudden menace with as rapid and warlike a defiance. Ten days ago Italy had done nothing but talk; to-day she is up in arms, almost in 'battle array.' Austria cannot now disarm in Venetia. There was no necessity for her to arm there; but, by the very fact of doing so, she roused Italy to action, and Italy cannot afford to be roused in vain. She would willingly have slumbered yet a little longer; but, rudely awakened by Austria, she will sleep no more till the cries of Venetia are hushed in the tears of a joyful but sanguinary triumph.

"Let there be no doubt upon the question. Italy is united to a man. The *Avvenire* newspaper is no more, the *Diritto* has had to change its editor and its tone, and the Left beg for nothing but to

be permitted to co-operate with the Government. The old fire of enthusiasm has run along the land. The old cries are heard. There is now again no separation of names. Victor Emmanuel and Garibaldi are one, and they are only Italy. Dissent on the question would not be tolerated, but nobody wants to dissent. Could there be stronger proof of this than the occurrences of the last three days? Not only without a dissentient, but without a complaining voice, a convertible currency has been suspended, twelve millions sterling have been suddenly decreed to be employed for the immediate purposes of war, and the 'Consorzio Nazionale' talks of offering all its funds to the voracious maws of the cannon. Boys are quitting the universities, loafers leaving the cafés, hands terribly wanted at home are abandoning the plough, and the pruning-knife is thrown aside and replaced by the bayonet. The trouble is not who shall go, but who is to be compelled to stay at home. The King and his two brave boys lead the way, and all are fired by the great example. All may fail, all may perish, but all are resolved to be in the thick of the fight.

"The question of to-day is not whether Italy shall arm to the teeth in order to be on the alert against a sudden attack from her haughty foe, but whether, having armed, she can now possibly be prevented from flying at Austria's throat, and trying to compel her to relax her cruel grip of suffering Venetia. The Chamber met on the 2nd, in secret committee, on the invitation of the Left, to discuss a matter of imperial and immediate moment. What was the subject of their discussion has not authentically transpired; but I have excellent grounds for being sure that it was the attitude of the Government with respect to the volunteers. General Cialdini is credited with implicit faith in their usefulness and their patriotism, but La Marmora with sentiments precisely the opposite. I believe the latter suspicion to be grossly exaggerated. Still, there can be no doubt that the gallant Premier believes rather in regular than in guerrilla troops, and has a strong preference for rifled cannon over red-shirted skirmishers who disdain to be encumbered with artillery. The King has both faith in Garibaldi and personal affection for him, and the sympathy which one brave, simple soldier feels for another. Nor can there be any doubt that the services of the volunteers will be accepted. The volunteers will be armed, no doubt; but the party of action would have them armed and enrolled by themselves, without any official call from the King, seconded by the Parliament. In the Piazza Pitti there have been two immense and enthusiastic torch-light meetings, the upshot of which was that the assembly moved on to the Palazzo Vecchio, there to petition the Chambers for the immediate summoning to arms of the Garibaldians. Music had lent its potent aid to the enthusiasm of the Pitti concourse, and hymns—patriotic, national, and dynastic—had roused the people to a frenzy. Everything, however, was conducted with the most perfect order. But order and legality are not always synonymous. Arrived at the Palazzo Vecchio, the crowd selected a committee, whom they deputed to go at once and deliver their sentiments to the Chamber. Signor Depretis, the Vice-President, received them with the most perfect, but perhaps rather severe, courtesy; and whilst assuring them that Parliament would ever turn a willing and deferential ear to the prayers of the people, he remarked that it could be legally approached only by written petition. It could not receive a crowd or even a deputation pronouncing itself orally. Both the deputation and the crowd took the rebuke in good part, and separated with the reply that they would make known their wishes in the authorised form.

"From every corner of the kingdom come telegraphic messages, all bearing the same burden. From Suse to Syracuse there has run a thrill of fierce joy, and passionate petitions for war are sent from crowded city and secluded hamlet. As I travelled up here from Umbria, I found troops on their march all along the diligence road, and loading the vans of the line of rail from Torricella to the capital. I heard the old songs. My ears rang with the old 'Evvivas.' If it was not war, it was war's certain prelude. From the Universities come cries no more of scholastic insubordination, but of martial madness. They are flinging their books to the winds and hurrying off to the north, praying to be allowed to fight. From the furthest south messages reach us, from province and from commune, begging the Government to avail themselves of all the regular troops, since the National Guard assumes the direction and responsibility of all other duties."

Another correspondent, writing from Florence on the same subject, says:—"The volunteers are preparing for action all over the country. Every city has its enrolling offices, and the unauthorised soldiers only want to be decreed lawful in order to appear already formed a host of enthusiastic combatants. It is Turin again that stands at the head of the movement, and her volunteers have paraded the streets in fine marching order amidst the acclamations of the whole population. Milan is a good second in this patriotic race. Naples, Palermo, Florence, and the other towns present a noble line; and if they are distanced by their northern rivals it is because all cannot be first. What is certain is this, that when Garibaldi comes he will find an army ready made to follow him at once."

THE LIVE STOCK IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.—On Monday morning were issued from the statistical department of the Board of Trade, for the information of Parliament, various returns relating to live stock in the United Kingdom. On March 5 there were, it appears, 3,286,308 cows in the United Kingdom; 5,030,652 other cattle; 25,794,708 sheep (this is probably short by a large number of the lambs of the present year), and 3,800,399 pigs. The number of cattle died of, or killed on account of, plague up to the week ended April 21 was 181,443, or a loss of 3.68 computed upon estimated ordinary stock. Other tables give the number of cattle, sheep, and pigs, according to age in each county, and the population and number of live stock in various foreign countries according to the latest returns.

THE CHOLERA.—The *Helvetia*, a passenger-ship, sailed last week from Liverpool for New York, with a large number of Dutch and German emigrants on board. On reaching Queenstown, however, cholera was found to have broken out on board, and the ship was immediately ordered back to the Mersey. Here all the passengers were disembarked, the sick being accommodated in hospital-ships provided for the purpose, and the healthy in quarantine quarters. The reports give the worst accounts of the dirty habits of German emigrants, and upwards of 1000 now en route from Rotterdam to Grimsby, near Hull, will not be allowed to land. In view of the possibility of cholera visiting this country, an Order in Council has been issued, the purport of which is:—1. That in case of any vessel arriving in any port of the United Kingdom having such disease on board, no person shall land from such vessel for the space of three clear days after her arrival without the permission of the local authority. 2. The local authority shall forthwith cause all persons on board the said vessel to be examined by a physician or surgeon, and shall permit all such persons to land immediately who shall be certified by such physician or surgeon to be free from such disease. 3. All persons certified by such physician or surgeon to be affected with symptoms of such disease shall be removed, if their condition admits of it, to some hospital or place to be designated for such purpose by the local authority; and no person so removed shall quit such hospital or place until some physician or surgeon shall have certified that such person is free from the said disease. 4. In the event of any death from cholera taking place on board such vessel, the body shall be taken out to sea and committed to the deep, properly loaded, to prevent its rising. 5. The clothing and bedding of all persons who shall have died or had an attack of cholera on board such vessel during her voyage, either at any foreign port or on shore at such port, or on her passage to the United Kingdom, shall be disinfected or (if necessary) destroyed under the direction of an officer of the Customs. 6. The local authority, for the purposes of this order, shall be the local board of health where there is such local board; and in any Corporation where there is no such local board the local authority shall be the Town Council of such Corporation. 7. All persons offending against this order shall be liable to such penalties as are imposed by the said Act of Parliament upon persons offending against the provisions thereof. In reference to this subject the *Lancet* says:—"When, in 1859, cholera prevailed in many towns and seaports of Western Europe, several cases were imported into English seaports, and the disease did not spread. The migratory character of the epidemic during the past year weakens the hope that might be built upon this fact, although it may be strengthened somewhat by the consideration that there were no traces of the disease in this country during the past winter. In previous epidemics in England the great outbreak has been preceded by sundry local outbreaks in the autumn of the year preceding; but the disease has never entirely subsided in the interval between these slighter manifestations and the general outbreak. The entire cessation of the epidemic of last year, after its slight appearance at Southampton and Thordun-Bois (Essex), is in so marked and favourable contrast with the phenomena of previous epidemics, that the mind naturally seeks to derive from the fact a less disheartening forecast for the present year."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor and Empress paid a visit on Sunday to the department of the Yonne, and on their public entrance into Auxerre the Mayor presented an address, to which his Majesty replied as follows:—

"I see with pleasure that the memory of the First Empire has not been effaced from your minds. Believe me, for my own part, I have inherited the feelings entertained by the chief of my family for this energetic and patriotic population, who sustained the Emperor in good as in evil fortune. I have a debt of gratitude to discharge towards Yonne. This department was the first to give me its suffrages in 1848, because it knew, with the majority of the French people, that its interests were my interests, and that I detested equally with them, those treaties of 1815 which it is now sought to make the sole basis of our foreign policy. I thank you for the sentiments you have expressed towards me. Among you I breathe freely, for it is among the working population, both in town and country, that I find the real genius of France."

The Emperor's speech at Auxerre and the impending war are the principal subjects discussed in the Paris papers. The *Constitutionnel* contained an article on Wednesday on the Emperor's speech, which it denies gave any encouragement to the ambition of Prussia or Italy; the object of France being limited to assure her own dignity and security, and her programme consisting in the words "reform of the treaties of 1815." Public feeling among the town population of France, and especially in Paris, is strongly adverse to war.

BELGIUM.

On Tuesday, in the Chamber of Representatives, M. Coomans asked if it were true that the Government shortly intended to demand fresh credits from the House on account of precautionary military measures. The Minister of Finance replied that if, unhappily, it became necessary to request an extraordinary credit for the national defence he should state the measures proposed by the Government when demanding the credit; but up to the present the Government had no such request to make, and consequently nothing to reply on the subject. It is stated, however, that the Government shortly intends raising the effective of the Belgian army to 80,000 men, and that the orders for recalling the men on furlough are already signed.

SPAIN.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Congress, Marshal O'Donnell brought forward a bill empowering the Government to collect and employ the taxes, should the budgets of revenue and expenditure not be definitively voted by the 30th of June next. The bill also proposes a gradual reduction in the salaries of Government officials, with the exception of the military; and economies are to be introduced generally throughout the whole public service. The Government further requests authority under this bill to effect a settlement with the holders of the certificates for the interest of the Spanish Debt not comprised under the law of 1851. The amount appropriated for the annual redemption of the Passive Debt is to be increased. The Government also asks authority to issue bonds at 3 per cent to a sufficient amount to produce 60,000,000 dols. in specie; and, finally, to be empowered to increase the naval and military forces of the kingdom in case of need. The bill created a great sensation in the House.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The Paris Conference, it is reported from Bucharest, has refused to sanction the election of Prince Charles of Hohenzollern as Hospodar of Roumania, and has requested the Provisional Government to notify this fact in the official journal. The Government have convoked the Chamber of Deputies for the 10th of May. Colonel Salomon, Minister of War, has been arrested on a charge of conspiracy against the Government.

THE UNITED STATES.

Our news from the United States is to the 28th ult. The Fenians had failed in their designs, if they ever really had any, against New Brunswick. The Roberts faction attribute the fiasco to the imbecility of Mahoney, while Mahoney will probably have his revenge in the discomfiture of the Roberts marauders, who are pledged to do something on the Canadian frontier.

Mr. Bigelow had made a well-meant effort to come to some arrangement with the Emperor Napoleon in the interest of peace; but the ultimate result is not yet made known.

Spain is semi-officially reported to have requested the mediation and agreed to submit to the arbitration of the United States in the complication with Chili.

The House Judiciary Committee had summoned a great number of witnesses to prove the complicity of Mr. Jefferson Davis in the assassination plot; but, though the cross-examination was limited, nothing had been produced to substantiate the charge. President Johnson had granted Mrs. Jefferson Davis permission to visit her husband.

Mr. Johnson had ordered the confiscation of property in Florida to be discontinued.

INDIA.

The intelligence from India, received by the Bombay mail, is satisfactory. The whole of the peninsula was tranquil, and the public health of Bombay was good. There was a rumour that the Russians had been defeated in Bokhara, and that the Emir was preparing to attack them again. The Indian Government has refused to interfere in Afghan affairs, but the ships Coromandel and Pantaloon had been sent to the Persian Gulf to protect British interests. The Nabob of Bawalpore is supposed to have been poisoned. The total cost of the Bhootan war is estimated at twenty-five lacs of rupees. A famine prevailed in Bhootan, and the people were suffering severely.

THE IMPENDING WAR ON THE CONTINENT.

The news from the Continent is of nothing else but war. Saxony is arming, and the Prussian official papers declare that for patriotic reasons they will no longer publish reports of the movements of Prussian troops. The certainty of war between Austria and Prussia is now no longer doubted.

Equally little doubt is there as to war between Italy and Austria. How near Austria believes it may be judged by the fact that she has inundated the third circle of works about Mantua, and thus prepared for a siege of that place. The state of public feeling in Italy is described in another article; but it may be added here that a Royal decree was issued, on Tuesday afternoon, ordering the formation of a corps of Italian volunteers, to be provisionally composed of twenty battalions, under the command of General Garibaldi. The volunteers will engage to serve for a term of one year.

Orders have been issued for placing the whole Austrian army on a war footing, and for concentrating the army of the north on the Bohemian and Silesian frontiers. In regard to the danger of war, the Government intends to convocate all the Provincial Diets throughout the empire. It is stated to have been resolved to utilise the ecclesiastical property in providing for the expenses of war, and the Government is reported to be negotiating in order to obtain advances on the security of this property.

Prussia, on the other hand, having decreed an increase of the army generally, and the organisation of the Landwehr, this increase of the Prussian army has been answered by the Kaiser ordering another conscription in some, if not in all, parts of his vast dominions. The extent of the measure cannot be accurately estimated, such things, as a matter of course, being kept secret on the eve of a war. Still, the Prussian Government are said to have received intelligence, which they believe reliable, that in Galicia alone, where the ordinary annual recruitment has just been concluded, a new levy of 40,000 men will be made on May 19. They therefore have thought it incumbent upon them to lose no time in effecting a corresponding increase of their troops. In accordance with this resolution, the King on Sunday signed an order to organise the munition, &c., trains of the five corps d'armée recently put upon a war footing. In addition to this, another corps d'armée—the 8th,

stationed in Rhineland—is also fully mobilised. Of the three remaining corps-d'armée, the Pomeranian and East Prussian not being comprised in the new measure, are only increased in the cavalry and artillery, as provided for under the order of last week; while the Westphalian remains upon a peace footing, with the exception of the artillery, which is mobilised in the entire kingdom. The alarming result of both measures is that, within three weeks, the Prussian army will have been raised to a total of 415,000 men, 240,000 of whom are provided with all the necessities for taking the field.

A numerously attended meeting of working men took place at Leipzig, on Tuesday, at which resolutions were passed condemning the remonstrances of the Municipal Council of Leipzig against the warlike policy of Baron von Beust. Other resolutions were passed, urging the alliance of Saxony with the other middle States, and also a general armament of the people.

The Government of Baden have ordered the compulsory purchase of horses for military service.

The strength of each of the twenty infantry battalions of the Hanoverian army has been raised to 560 men by the recall of the soldiers on furlough.

Prince Frederick Charles will take the chief command of the Prussian army.

A despatch is believed to have been forwarded to Stuttgart by the Prussian Government demanding explanations respecting the armaments which are going on in Württemberg.

The Federal German Diet, on Wednesday, adopted the proposal of the Saxon representative that Prussia should be requested to make a pacific declaration, or otherwise the Diet would be compelled to take the steps provided by article 11 of the Federal Pact. This resolution goes to show that, when the war does begin, Austria will have the sympathy, and most probably the active help, of the middle States.

We subjoin the latest diplomatic communications which have passed between the two great German Powers. The following is the text of the reply forwarded by Prussia to the Austrian note of the 26th ult. :—

Berlin, April 30.

Count Karolyi communicated to me on the 28th the annexed reply of the Imperial Government to my despatch forwarded to your Excellency upon the 21st inst.

To my regret, I cannot conceal from your Excellency that we had expected a manifestation of a different kind in answer to our communication of the 21st. We had, as I then stated, by his Majesty's command, looked forward to a further statement as to the extent and the periods in which the reduction of the war footing of the Imperial Austrian army should be effectively carried out, in order to keep equal step in our own disarmaments with those of Austria; and we acted therein upon the assumption that the Imperial Cabinet had the complete return to a peace footing equally as much at heart as ourselves.

The Imperial Cabinet seems to have convinced itself that the apprehensions of offensive measures on the part of Prussia, which formed the motives of the Austrian armaments, were unfounded. We are, therefore, all the more surprised when the Imperial Cabinet does not think itself able to fulfil the proposals of disarmament made upon the 18th inst., and readily accepted by his Majesty the King, but materially modifies those proposals in many respects. In his despatch of the 18th Count Mensdorff first held out the prospect that Austria would take the initiative in disarmament, as she had done in armament. This concession seems to be called in question again by the text of the despatch of the 26th, which demands simultaneous disarmament. Subsequently we acceded to the proposal of the Imperial Government—that, to use its own words, the Emperor would at once give orders to countermand the movements required by preparation for war against Prussia, and to stop the measures connected therewith.

These movements, as admitted by the Imperial Government itself, had extended, in the shape of an approach of bodies of troops, to the north-western frontier of Austria, over the greater part of the empire; and we were, therefore, justified in assuming, according to the proposal of the Imperial Government, that the intended restoration of the normal *status quo ante* would extend to the whole of those movements required by the war footing. Instead of this, the latest declaration of the Imperial Government limits the disarmament of which it holds out a prospect exclusively to the withdrawal of the troops sent to Bohemia to reinforce the garrison there stationed, which, by the statement of the Imperial Government, amount to ten battalions of infantry. As regards the remaining provinces, the despatch does not even mention Silesia, Moravia, and Western Galicia, which border Prussia, and in which it is notorious that a large number of cavalry regiments summoned from remote parts of the country are stationed. While the Imperial Government considers the measure affecting Bohemia alone to present a full equivalent for the return of Prussia to a peace footing, it further plainly expresses its intention to undertake, in the remaining parts of the empire, such considerable "movement of troops and calling out of furlough men" as may be requisite to place the Emperor's "Italian army" upon a war footing. It has been ascertained from the most reliable quarters that purchases of horses are taking place for this latter purpose upon an extended scale throughout the monarchy. The strength the Imperial Government may accordingly intend to give the army upon a war footing, to be stationed in the other parts of the monarchy, and also, perhaps, in the other provinces adjoining Prussia, except in Bohemia, will, of course, depend solely upon the judgment of the Imperial Government, and upon the importance it attaches to the danger of attack by which it believes itself threatened.

The Austrian Government thus demands that Prussia shall countermand her, in themselves, modest defensive armaments, which have remained unchanged since the 28th of March, while Austria certainly withdraws her reinforcements of garrisons from Bohemia, but extends and hastens her armaments for the establishment of an army upon a war footing. I cannot conceal from your Excellency that after the exchange of mutual declarations upon the 18th and 21st, hailed by us and by Europe as a guarantee of peace, we were not prepared for this demand. In justification of the altered attitude it takes up in the despatch of the 26th, the Imperial Government adduces the intelligence it has received from Italy. According to this, the army of King Victor Emmanuel is said to have been placed upon a war footing to proceed to an attack upon Venice. The information which has reached us direct from Italy, and that we have received through the medium of other Courts, coincide in stating that armaments of a threatening character against Austria have not taken place in Italy, and confirm us in the conviction that an unprovoked attack upon the empire is far distant from the intentions of the Cabinet of Florence. If in the meantime, and recently, military preparations may have commenced in Italy, these, as well as the measures adopted by us upon the 28th of March, may probably be regarded as the consequence of the armaments begun by Austria. We are persuaded that the Italian armaments would be as readily discontinued as our own, provided the causes through which they have been occasioned ceased.

In the interest of the preservation of peace and the cessation of the pressure which at present weighs upon the relations of politics and trade, we therefore again request the Imperial Government to adhere without wavering to the programme it laid down for itself in the despatch of the 18th, and which his Majesty the King accepted without delay in the most conciliatory sense, and as a mark of his personal confidence in his Majesty the Emperor. In execution of the same, we should expect, first, that all the troops sent to Bohemia, Moravia, Cracow, and Austrian Silesia since the middle of March should not only return to their former garrisons, but also that all bodies of troops stationed in those provinces should be replaced upon the former peace footing. We await a speedy authentic communication as to the execution of these measures—i.e., of the restoration of the *status quo ante*, as the term of the 25th of April, fixed by the Imperial Government itself for the return to a peace footing of the troops assembled against our frontiers, has long since expired. We hope that the Imperial Government will at once, by further inquiry, arrive at the conviction that its intelligence as to the aggressive intentions of Italy was unfounded; that it will then proceed to the effective restoration to a peace footing throughout the Imperial army, and thereby enable us to take the same step, to his Majesty's satisfaction. So long as this course—in our opinion the only correct one, and which we had imagined already accepted by both parties—is not adopted, it is impracticable for the King's Government to look forward to the immediate future, in which important and pregnant negotiations impend with the Imperial Government, otherwise than with the establishment of equilibrium in the preparations of both Powers for war. The King's Government cannot expect a successful result from negotiations carried on between one party armed and the other in a state of perfect disarmament.

In this sense it regrets strongly that the Imperial Government has not been willing to assent to our proposal to request the other Federal Governments to suspend their military arrangements, the actual existence of which cannot be denied even by the respective Governments themselves. The King's Government, for its part, has not refrained from addressing the necessary summons to the Saxon Government, whose armaments are further advanced; but the success of this step, and therewith the interests of peace, might be regarded as more secure if the Imperial Austrian Government had been able to resolve upon a similar proceeding.

I request your Excellency to read this despatch to the Austrian Minister, and to leave with him a copy of the same.

(Signed)

VON BISMARCK.

In reply to the above despatch, Count Mensdorff has addressed the following note to the Austrian Minister in Berlin, under date of the 4th inst. :—

Your Excellency, I have the honour to send you annexed the copy of a

despatch from the Prussian Cabinet, dated the 30th ult., communicated to me by Baron von Werther.

According to this despatch the Government of his Majesty the King of Prussia believes that no cause exists for Austria to prepare to repulse an attack upon her Italian possessions. It declares that if Austria, nevertheless, should not think proper to take steps for effectually placing the entire Austrian army upon a peace footing, it would not be possible for Prussia either to proceed to the important negotiations, fraught with serious results, now impending with the Austrian Government otherwise than by maintaining the equilibrium of warlike preparation between the two Powers.

Your Excellency comprehends that, in view of this declaration, we must consider the negotiations for a simultaneous withdrawal of the military preparations of Prussia against Austria, and of Austria against Prussia, to be exhausted. The solemn assurances made by us at Berlin and Frankfurt establish the fact that Prussia has no offensive movement to apprehend from us, and Germany no breach of the Federal peace. Austria has equally little intention of attacking Italy, although the severance of a portion of her territory from her forms the programme openly avowed by the Italian Government at every opportunity. On the other hand, it is our duty to take measures for the defence of the monarchy; and if the Government of Prussia sees in our defensive measures against Italy a motive for keeping up its own preparations for war, it only remains for us to fulfil this duty, which admits of no foreign control, without being drawn into further discussions respecting the priority or the extent of separate military arrangements.

The Prussian Government, further, cannot conceal from itself the fact that we have to secure not only the integrity of our own empire, but also the territory of the Germanic Confederation from an attack of Italy; and we are compelled, in the interests of Germany, to ask seriously how Prussia is able to reconcile her demand that we should leave German frontiers unguarded with the duties of a German Power?

When, lastly, Count Bismarck informs us that Prussia has called upon the Saxon Government to discontinue its armaments, we are forced to express our conviction that the King of Saxony, equally with the Emperor, our most gracious master, thinks only of necessary self-defence; and is sustained by federal treaties, which render the prevention of a breach of the peace obligatory upon every member of the confederation.

Your Excellency will communicate these remarks to the President of the Ministry of the King, and may consider yourself empowered to leave with him a copy of the present despatch.

MENSENDORFF.

SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH CASTLE.—The Chamber of Commerce of Edinburgh have resolved to call the attention of Parliament to the quantity of gunpowder kept in Edinburgh Castle and Leith Fort, having already memorialised the Home Secretary without any known result. The quantity of gunpowder stored at Leith is said to be 130,000 lb., or 26,000 lb. more than in three different places at Erith before the explosion there, and in near proximity to steam-mills and to the railway. The Government had been asked to keep the store on the island of Inchkeith, but hesitated on account of the expense.

THE NEW GENERAL POST OFFICE, EDINBURGH.—The new General Post office of Edinburgh, of which the foundation-stone was laid by the late Prince Consort on the 23rd of October, 1861, was opened for the public service on Monday. In the under level apartments, which are fully lighted on the south or valley side, there is vast accommodation for stores, and a large apartment has been allowed for the muster and drill of the Civil Service company of the Queen's Edinburgh Volunteer Brigade. In the new building handsome apartments have also been allotted to the Board of Ordnance, the Board of Lunacy, the Scottish Meteorological Society, and the Adjutant-General's department. Before opening the office three days were allowed to the public to visit the building in the end of last week, and it is estimated that over 30,000 persons took advantage of the opportunity. The new building will cost about £120,000.

ELECTORAL RETURNS RELATING TO SCOTLAND.—On Monday morning were published returns obtained by direction of her Majesty's Government for the purpose of furnishing, with respect to the burgh and county constituencies of Scotland, information similar to that contained in the electoral returns for England and Wales. Return No. 1 shows the number of male occupants in the burghs of Scotland at certain stated annual values, commencing at £4. The total of the burghs is as follows:—30,468 male occupants at £4 and under £5; 20,306 at £5 and under £6; 7571 at £6; 8331 above £6 and under £7; 12,069 at £7 and under £8; 8833 at £8 and under £9; 6864 at £9 and under £10; and 58,300 at £10 and over. The present value of all the property within the Parliamentary bounds according to the valuation rights in force is £4,699,726. Return No. 2 gives some particulars respecting the working-class electors. On the 1st of December, 1865, there were 55,519 electors on the Parliamentary register of the Scotch burghs, of whom 37,850 were tenants and occupants and 17,665 proprietors. The number who come within the description of "mechanics, artisans, and other persons supporting themselves by manual labour" was 10,174, of whom 6079 were tenants and occupants. 22,825 electors, of whom 3975 were of the working class, voted at the last general election. Return No. 3 tells us that the number of electors of all classes in 1832 was 31,318, so that there has been an increase of 24,197. Of the male occupants under £10 and not under £7 the working men number 17,670, and the masters, clerks, shopmen, &c., 8140. The net increase in the population of the burghs between 1851 and 1861 is 107,984. A fifth return gives the number of male occupants in counties, at various annual values from £10 to £50 and upwards, distinguishing those who are owners; and a sixth and last return states the population of the counties. In 1861 the net increase of the population since 1831 was 65,568; and the net increase of electors up to 1865 was 1026. The population of the counties in 1861 was 1,818,188. The number of electors in 1865 was 49,979.

THE PROVINCES.

THE GROWING CROPS.—The wheats have suffered a little in Norfolk from recent frosts, but, upon the whole, they are strong and vigorous, and promise an abundant yield. Barleys and other spring corn have come up well upon most soils, but tillage has not been uniformly successful on the heavy lands. In the fens the wheats are generally looking healthy, although they present the appearance of a lighter bulk of straw than was probable a few weeks since. Cool, cloudy days, without frosts at night, would be very serviceable during the next fortnight. Spring corn is, for the most part, looking well in the fens.

EMIGRATION FROM THE IRON AND COAL DISTRICTS.—Last year a vast number of colliers and ironworkers, with their wives and families, emigrated from the mining districts of South Wales to America—in fact, the exodus was so great that it was with difficulty many of the works could be kept fully and regularly going. At the beginning of the present spring a similar movement pervaded the district; and in consequence of the numbers that broke up their homes for the purpose of emigrating to the New World fears began to be entertained that the operations of the ironworks and the collieries, more especially the latter, would be again seriously interfered with. Several letters, however, have lately been received from those who went out last year, giving a most deplorable picture of the state of things in the United States, and warning those at home to stay where they are well off. This has had the effect of materially checking the emigration movement, and most of those who were making preparations to take their departure have changed their minds, and have determined to remain in the country, being at last convinced that a moderate rate of wages and regular employment are to be preferred to the uncertain result of emigration to the States.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.—The work of restoration of this cathedral, having been resumed upon the faith of a handsome county subscription towards the £32,000 required for carrying out the new work, is now progressing satisfactorily. The chief restorations now in hand are the tower and cloisters. The front porch (north) is nearly restored, with the exception of the statuary to fill up the niches, which was intrusted to a Bristol artist; but, his specimens of sculpture being considered below the mark, this part of the work has now been intrusted to Hardman, of Birmingham. The reparation and restoration of the tower is a heavy work; and, although it has been some time under hand, it will occupy two years before it can be completed and the great clock and new peal of bells be placed in it. All the old bells have now been disposed of. The new peal is to be second to none in the kingdom, and the clock is to be regulated by telegraphic connection with Greenwich. All the pinnacles of the towers have been removed, and some of the upper portion of the masonry. The restoration of the cloisters will be a heavy and elaborate work; and the contract has been taken by Messrs. Collins and Cullis, of Tewkesbury, who have commenced the work, and the cloisters now present a scene of the utmost dilapidation. From being, as at present, remarkably plain, the future cloisters of Worcester Cathedral will be among the finest in England. The window spaces will be filled with elegant perpendicular work and tracery in character with the cloisters, and it is contemplated to have them all filled with stained glass, as is being done in the Gloucester Cathedral cloisters. Several old doorways have been discovered in the wall of the west cloister, communicating at one time with the prebendal houses and gardens outside; and a staircase has been found in the same wall leading to the old chapter library in the old triforium over the south side of the nave of the cathedral. The plaster and whitewash on the walls of the cloisters, disfigured with names and words scratched on it by idle persons, will all be removed and the stone exposed, as in other parts of the cathedral.

A CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.—On Saturday last an inquest was held on the body of Euphemia Johnson, aged six years, whose death was caused by fire. The deceased was left in a room on the ground floor at No. 10, King-street, New Brompton, with two younger children, by their mother. Upon hearing the screams of the children, a little dog jumped through a pane of glass into the room, and, on the mother's return, which was in a few minutes, she saw the faithful animal tearing away the deceased's clothes with his mouth and paws. When he saw the mother he laid hold of her gown to draw her towards the child. She succeeded in extinguishing the flames, but the child died from the effects of the injuries.

A PLAQUE OF LOCUSTS IN ALGERIA.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Algiers, on the 30th ult., gives the following account of a plague of locusts which has visited that region :—

There has occurred here a great calamity, and the poor people are in the greatest distress and despair. A sirocco has been blowing from the desert, and the locusts have come. We heard a few days ago that they had arrived, and were destroying the crops in the plains at the foot of the Atlas Mountains. A week ago they were sixteen miles off; on the 24th they made their appearance in a field close to our house, and the whole country is in a wild state of excitement. Our little servant, whose mother has a small farm near, was crying bitterly. All the people turned out with tin kettles, or any noisy thing they could get hold of, beating, rattling, shouting, firing guns, the Arabs yelling everywhere to try to prevent the locusts settling on the fields or fruit-trees; fires of green wood and sulphur were lighted in all directions; the whole country was dim with smoke. You may imagine the scene.

At first they were not so many, only like flocks of young birds. They are great things like enormous grasshoppers, with long legs, large mouths, green and yellow in colour, with light-coloured wings, as long and thick as one's middle finger. All in vain the din and smoke; on they came in clouds till the air seemed full of immense flakes of black snow. A number came near the mulberry trees in the yard of this house, and our coachman caught a good many to show to us. They do not bite people, but it is horrid to walk out when they come low down; the great things strike against your face or stick to your clothes. You have to keep waving a stick or parasol to frighten them off. Towards afternoon they subsided, and we hoped they had passed over us; but a friend who is staying with us walked up a hill near, on which there is an old telegraph tower, and found that the ground was covered with them; and when he went out again before six o'clock in the morning the branches of the trees were thickly covered, and they were all turning their backs to the sun. They do not like damp. There was a great deal of lightning and thunder on the 25th and some rain, but not enough, as we hoped, to have driven them into the sea, and the next day they were thicker than ever. The people are all out again making every possible noise to keep them from settling in their fields, but I fear there is no hope.

It is very unusual for the locusts to come at this season; and it is ten years since they have come at all in such numbers; two years ago they did some partial damage, but they generally come in July or August, when the poor farmers have taken off the greater part of their crops. Now everything is in perfection. The country is lovely, and green, and full of flowers; the fruit trees are laden with green almonds, figs, and apricots. The mulberries are green and juicy for the silkworms; the grain in full ear; the vegetables in perfection, strawberries in full season, potatoes green and promising. In a short time I suppose the country will be a bare wilderness, and the poor people ruined and starving. I believe they eat the locusts sometimes.

The colony is not at all prosperous now, and people were in low spirits before; but this is worst of all. It is, in fact, a terrible scourge. The people say it denotes an unhealthy state of the atmosphere, and that there will be a great deal of sickness, perhaps cholera, so it is very well for everyone to get away as soon as possible. The air has certainly been very oppressive the last few days and singularly hot.

The "plague" of locusts is a curious and wonderful sight to anyone not personally interested in the havoc and devastation. The worst fact of all is that each one of these thousands of insects makes a hole in the ground and lays about ninety eggs in it, so that there is great difficulty in getting rid of them, even after they have devoured all they can get. One feels so grieved for these poor people—for the farmers especially, few if any of whom are at all well off.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

THE CIVIL SERVICE SOCIETY.

THE games of this society were held on Friday and Saturday of last week, at Beaufort House, Walham-green, a very fashionable and numerous company being present on both days. The events in the programme were very numerous, but only the chief contests attracted great and general interest. Foremost among these was the pole-leaping. This contest, however, fell far short of what might have been expected, and was expected, from it. In no case did either the height obtained or the style of jumping approach the excellence shown by many amateurs in the Agricultural Hall and elsewhere. The greatest leap was made by Mr. Phillips, who cleared 8 ft. 5 in. well; but this height, great as it may appear, shrinks into comparative insignificance before the jumps which have been easily done by amateurs. The broad jump brought forth only two competitors, and Mr. Lambert won easily by a jump of 17 ft. 4 in. Mr. M'Namara, who was second, jumped 16 ft. 8 in. The strangers' race of 600 yards was won with comparative ease by Mr. Chinnery. Mr. Digby forced the running for a short time, but then gave in, when the winner, who had kept himself well in reserve, came on with a spurt, and won easily by five or six yards, Mr. Martin being second. The final heat for the mile race was well contested. After a short distance it virtually lay between Mr. Stebbing and Mr. Jobling. Both ran well, though the latter gentleman was deservedly the favourite. Betting, however, seemed utterly unsafe on either, and it seemed, as they came along shoulder to shoulder at a terrific pace, that it would be a dead heat. Eventually, however, as they neared the winning-post Mr. Jobling managed to get himself ahead, and won a fine struggle by about a foot or so. In the hurdle race, Mr. Emery won in most dashing style, Mr. Phillips pushing him hard and making an admirable second. The hopping-race was won by Mr. Pigott, though Mr. Wearne pressed him so close to the very finish that the winner, amid shouts of applause, only gained the victory by a single stride. The sack-race elicited shouts of laughter; and of this there is little more to be said but that Mr. Hunt won and Mr. Pigott was a good second. In the consolation race Mr. Adams won, after a close contest with Mr. Wearne; and the prizes were then distributed by the Marchioness of Queensberry.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CLUB.

The members of this club held their sports at the same place on the preceding Thursday, when considerable excellence was displayed in the various games. The only noticeable feature of distinction between the performances of the two clubs was that in the broad jump the University men excelled the Civil Service champions, even the defeated competitor on Thursday making a greater leap than the victor on the later occasion.

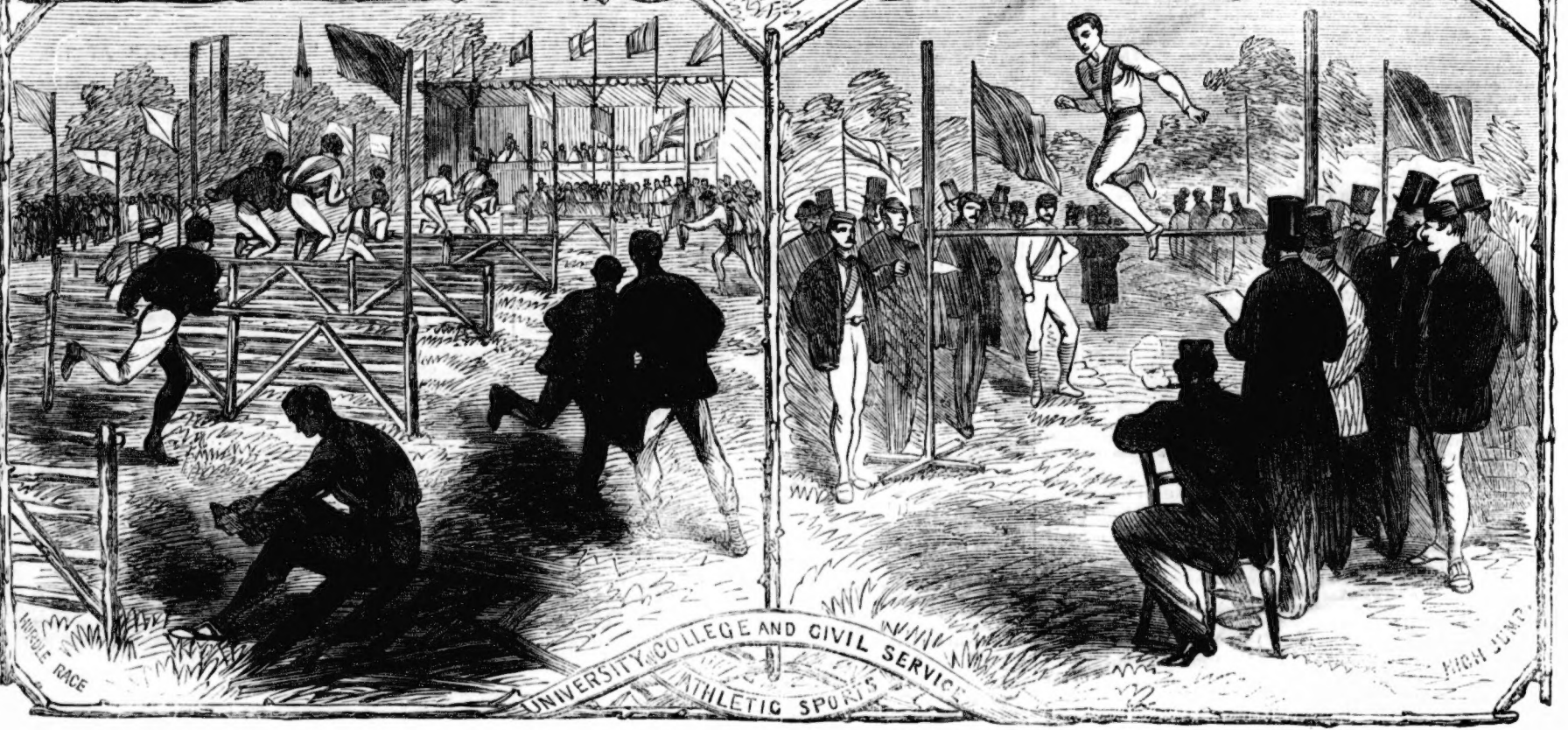
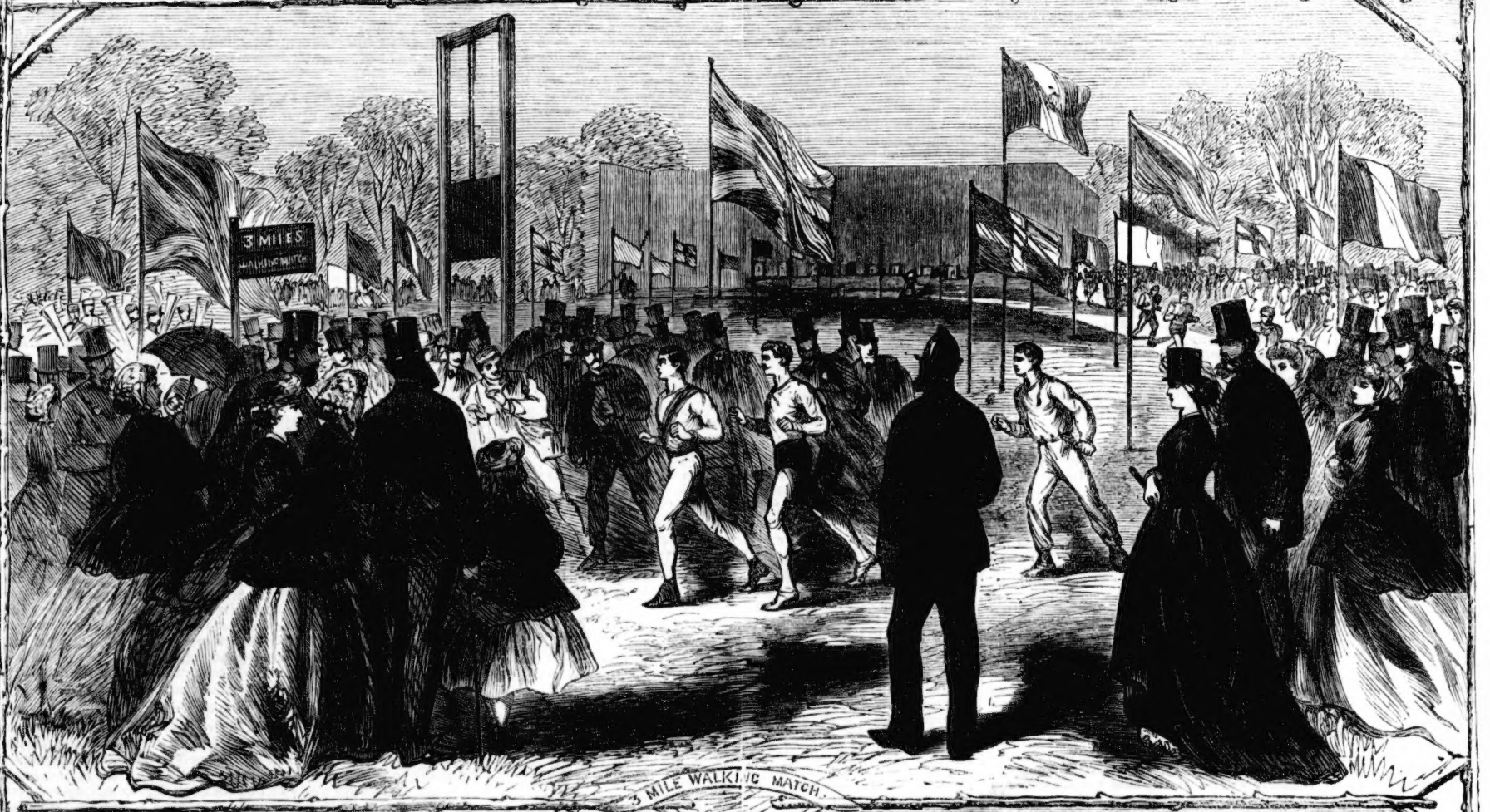
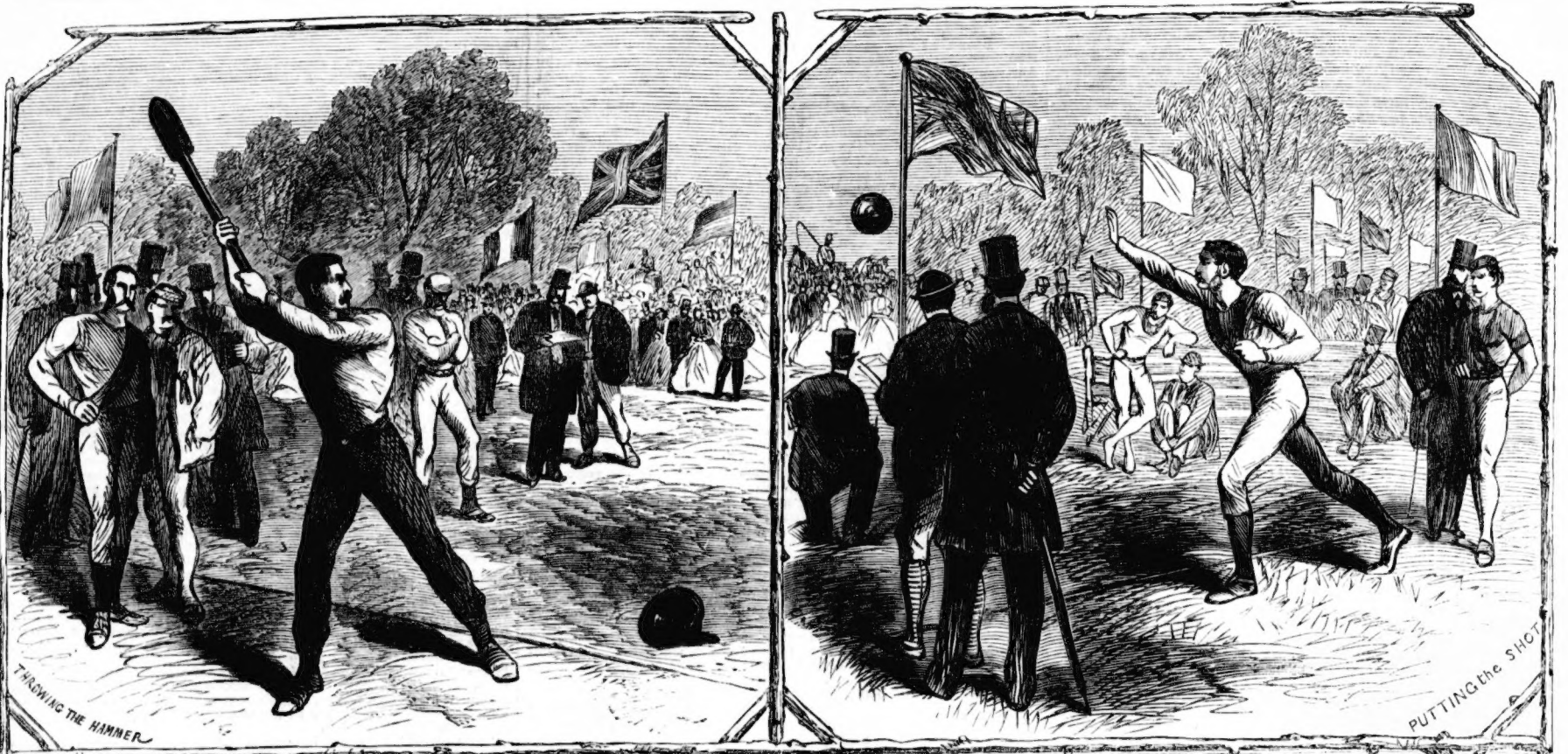
SCENE FROM "LOVE'S MARTYR" AT THE OLYMPIC THEATRE.

M. FREDERICK SOULIE, the famous French romance-writer, is a great master of fiction. He has a singular talent for stringing horror upon horror, and heaping one pile of agony upon another, until his readers, having passed through the stages of interest, excitement, painful emotion, and creeping of the flesh, arrive at a sort of prostration of the mental faculties and state of numb terror. The incidents of Mr. Harrison Ainsworth's stories are everyday occurrences compared to the terrible troubles into which M. Soulie plunges hero, heroine, and their surroundings. M. Soulie's dramatic personæ are as like to real human nature as the property owls, winged bats, and skeleton vultures exhibited in the incantation scene of "Der Freischütz" to those familiar specimens of ornithology the thrush, the linnet, or the neat, smooth, clerical-looking crow.

One of M. Soulie's most remarkable fictions is a tale called "Eulalie Pontois," which, after its appearance as a book, was adapted for the stage, and produced at a Parisian theatre. A translation of this piece, by Mr. Buckingham, was brought out, a week or so ago, at the Olympic Theatre, with a very strong cast. Although "Love's Martyr" is by no means a masterpiece of dramatic art, still the chief character—the Eulalie of the French piece—affords scope to Miss Kate Terry for some very excellent acting, especially in the scene selected for illustration by our artist, where she is accused, in the presence of her husband, of the murder of her benefactress, and is compelled to silence from her belief that the real assassin was her father.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

NOT in the absence of other news, but although events of considerable European interest are just now transpiring, the French journals, from which the English newspapers have published considerable extracts, have lately been occupied in revelations of the private life, course of study, marvellous progress, and extraordinary sagacity of the youthful Prince who is, it is hoped, destined one day to occupy the Imperial throne. Not to be behindhand, we present our readers with the latest portrait of his Imperial Highness, mounted on his favourite horse, in the act of starting for a canter after his studies are over for the day. At an age when most young gentlemen are but just eliminated from the



nursery and the sisters' governess to occupy a seat on the junior form of a public school, or to receive the placable attentions of a fourth-class private tutor, the Prince is represented to be a marvel of intelligence; and M. Marx, of the *Evénement*, who has been the most particular and the most favoured observer of the Imperial studies, has written at great length on a subject which, no doubt, deeply interests the Parisian world. Even the furniture of the Prince's study is catalogued by this admiring gentleman, who can scarcely find words adequately to express his surprise that the bookcase in this plainly-appointed apartment contained dog-eared volumes instead of dictionaries and grammars bound in morocco and with gilt edges. Of the two chairs in front of the table we are informed that the low one was for the tutor and the higher seat for the Imperial pupil, who had actually, like other boys, worn the straw of the seat, and the front rung of the chair itself by "fidgeting about." When we learn also that the writing-table is low and full of drawers, its top covered with leather and furnished with a common porcelain inkstand, with pens and rulers "of very democratic appearance," we can scarcely be surprised that the course of study to which the unfortunate lad is consigned is unusually severe, and of that insidious sort which pretends to combine instruction with amusement, like "Joyce's Scientific Dialogues," which volume was alike the awe and detestation of our boyish days. M. Monnier, the tutor, is, in fact, represented as one of those insufferable persons who are always lying in wait to entrap an unwary boy into a fact or a reflection, and so turning play into earnest. We must confess that we don't believe it. M. Marx is a little ambiguous on this subject;



THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.—(FROM A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH.)

but he says:—"M. Monnier more particularly instructs his august pupil during the walks which they take together. The studies at home at the desk are but a small portion of the sum total of the instruction which he imparts, and the most profitable lessons are those given during those quass-peripatetic (?) lectures. In a word, for instance, he would explain how it is that the lungs feel more at

"Cadmus," said the Prince, "is civilisation. The dragon is barbarism preventing approach to the fountain, which is light. The triumph of Cadmus is that of civilisation, and the springing up of soldiers who massacre each other is civil war, or the agitation of the factions who can never be extirpated from a State." To which we can only remark, Good gracious!

case in the middle of a full supply of oxygen, and point out different plants, giving them their Greek or Latin names. If the Prince raised his eyes towards nightfall, the conversation might turn on the stars; so of natural history, geology, chemistry, and mathematics." Yes it might; but we sincerely hope it doesn't. Just imagine having to go through all this even to become the ruler of France; and imagine the ultimate mental condition of that child to whom it was forbidden to yawn, to sing, to whistle, to pluck a flower, to make a snowball, to heave a stone, or even to heave a sigh, without being liable to a tutor coming down upon him with a chapter of the *Philosophical Transactions*. It may be true that the Prince rises at seven, and, after taking a cup of chocolate, visits his mamma and papa; that then, after a walk in the garden, he studies till half-past eleven; that he breakfasts, and then goes in for gymnastic exercise, such as "fencing, riding, or shooting;" that he takes an "instructive walk" with his tutor and studies again till dinner time, after which he begins to spend the evening in his own manner. All this is likely enough; but we hope he is no more the precocious little gentleman whom M. Marx would represent as a nine-year-old Socrates than we believe that, without cramming, he thus interpreted the story of Cadmus from our old friend Lemprière:—



SCENE FROM "LOVE'S MARTYR," AT THE OLYMPIC THEATRE.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 279.

STRAWS IN THE WIND.

STRAWS thrown in the air show the way of the wind. Let us notice the direction of a few political straws. First, then, let our readers mark how far the business of Supply has advanced in the House of Commons. Easter came early this year; but before Easter the Secretary of the Admiralty and the Secretary of State for War had bagged all their votes; and since Easter the Secretary of the Treasury has secured sixty of his—sixty in one night—leaving only about 140 to be got, which, if the House be in a kindly mood, will probably be obtained in two or three nights. This is unusual, and certainly means something, if we have but the wit to see it. We think, then, that, first and foremost, this zeal in pushing on Supply shows a desire on the part of the Government to be ready for any emergency that may arise. The political barometer indicates possible bad weather ahead. There are, moreover, ominous storm-breeders on the horizon, and, naturally enough, the captain of the ship is anxious to lighten it and to get it into good trim. If the Government once get the money, it will be ready for anything that may arise—adjournment, prorogation, or dissolution. In fact, when once the money is got, the real necessity for a session of Parliament is removed; but Government must have the money. If no money had been granted, her Majesty could neither prorogue nor dissolve Parliament, without very serious inconvenience, for several weeks; but, as matters stand now, her Majesty might prorogue or even dissolve Parliament in a few days. Here, then, is "a sign of the times," as Dr. Cumming would call it, and one which is much more intelligible than any that he has ever exhibited. And here is another. The House offers no obstruction to the granting supplies—not so much as usual; on the contrary, it seems to fall in with the wish of the Government, and, so far from obstructing, passes votes with little or no debate, indicating thereby that reform is to have a clear stage, and that the Fabian policy so successfully carried out in 1860 by the Conservative party finds no favour now. No! Let there be a clear stage and no favour—and may the best man win. This seems clearly to be the idea of the Conservatives. These, then, are the straws which we mentioned, and this is the current of the wind which they indicate. And if our readers will reflect they will see that in these remarks we have given them—as it is our duty to do—a peep into the real inner life of the House of Commons.

LANGUOR AFTER FEVER.

Lassitude comes after fever. Languor inevitably follows excitement. This is known to be a great physical law to which all human beings, and, indeed, all the lower animals, are subject; and as Parliament is only an aggregate of human beings, it followed, of course, that the House of Commons, after the fierce excitement of the reform debate, should drop suddenly into a state of lassitude and dulness. And it is as impossible to find anything like a lively or even very interesting incident in the proceedings of the past week as it is to extract sunbeams from cucumbers. That reform debate—with its exciting finale, when 637 members, including tellers, came down to the House and stopped there till the morning rays darted through the coloured windows and, mingling with the pale gaslight, made the members look as if they were jaundiced—so completely exhausted their energies that nearly half of them rushed out of town to recruit their strength and freshen up their spirits, whilst those who stopped in town have ever since wandered about, seldom sitting long in the House, and taking but little interest in its proceedings. As a proof of this, mark the dulness of the Budget night. Usually, as our readers well know, the Budget night is the great night of the Session. What crowds of members have for the last five or six years come down to the House on these nights, rushing in like a flood, and flowing and overflowing into every channel, and nook, and cranny of the Chamber; with what intense interest and anxiety they hung upon the lips, as it were, of the great performer of the evening; and how eagerly they devoured his words! Well, this year there was little or no excitement. When the Speaker entered, the House was not nearly full; and though it did fill before the Chancellor of the Exchequer rose, it was at no time during his speech inconveniently crowded. The great orator himself looked pale, and faded, and careworn. He proceeded to perform his work as if it were a task, rather than a pleasure, perfunctorily—that is, as if it were a burden to be endured and got rid of as soon as possible; and for a time he moved on but heavily. It is, though, but justice to him to say that, as he got on, he warmed to his work; and then we had not only his old, unrivalled clearness of statement, but the same genius that has so often flashed, and coruscated, and lighted up these Budget speeches. Still, this speech was not by any means so great a performance as we have had in former years. Nor was the House at all excited. It listened decorously, and occasionally a burst of cheers from the Liberal side of the House broke through the decorum; but they were not the enthusiastic, spontaneous cheers which we have so often heard. They seemed to come rather from the judgment than the feelings. Men cheered not because they could not help it, but rather because they decided that they ought to cheer. It has been said that the reason why the Budget was received with such comparative coldness was that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had little this year to give away. This is not complimentary to the House of Commons. Nor do we believe that it is true. Ours is the better philosophy. Speaker and audience were duller than usual because they have lately been so fiercely excited. They had been, if we may use the figure without offence, intoxicated during the preceding week, and now had to pay the usual penalty of debauch. Some time before Mr. Gladstone had finished, the House began to melt away; a buzz of talk made the peroration of his speech almost inaudible at a distance; and when he sat down the great body of the members rushed away to dinner; and in about an hour the Budget business was finished for the night, and Mr. Childers, the secretary to the Treasury, was rapidly working through Committee, consisting of some thirty members, his Exchequer and Audit Bill. After this some half dozen bills were pushed on a stage without opposition. Nothing is opposed now but reform; and a few minutes after twelve the House was off to bed. Such was the Budget night inside the House, and outside it was much the same. The galleries were filled; but there was no excitement. Whilst the Chancellor was up, the lobby, which generally on these occasions is crammed with a troublesome crowd taxing the energies and the temper of the police to keep it in decent order, was nearly empty; and the officers of the House, who are often on these occasions nearly pestered to death by exigent private secretaries, attachés to embassies, distinguished foreigners, peers' sons and grandsons, and all the other swells, who, ignorant of the laws of space as they are of so much more that they ought to know, can never be made to understand that when a gallery is chock full you cannot put any more into it—these officers of the House, we say, had little to do. Thus we see that the languor we have spoken of is common to strangers as well as to members.

LANGUOR CONTINUED.

But, if further evidence that the House of Commons has fallen into a dull, languid state be needed, here it is—and here, remember, reader, that we are bound to produce it in our own defence. We have imagined that we shall be charged this week with dulness. Our answer is, everybody is dull, the House of Commons especially; and how can we be otherwise? Here, then, is additional evidence. We have more than once alluded to the reform debate, which was finished some fortnight ago. This debate, then, our readers will remember, was, or ought to have been, about the bill for "the redistribution of the seats." The Government had introduced an enfranchisement bill. The Conservatives and the dwellers in the cave, led by Earl Grosvenor, declared that they would not have this bill until they got the other, and thereupon issue was joined, with what result we know. Well, on Monday last, the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced the bill for the redistribution of seats; and our readers will naturally say, in the simplicity of their hearts, "You

had then, no doubt, an exciting time in the House of Commons. If the House was so fierce and excited when fighting to get this bill, surely there must have been no small anxiety in the House when the Chancellor of the Exchequer rose to propose it and reveal its contents." But there was nothing of the sort. There was not much eagerness to secure places at prayers. The House, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer began his speech, was full, but not overflowing. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was duller even than he was on the Budget night; for then, as we have said, he did warm up as he proceeded; but on this occasion he was dull from the time he rose until he sat down—painfully dull, so much so that we could not help thinking that he was out of health. But, then, the House was as dull as its leader. It seemed to us to listen to his statements with a very languid attention. It seldom cheered; its laughter, when it laughed, was by no means hearty; and, if it did not applaud, neither did it express disapproval. In short, again it appeared to be jaded and indifferent—like a blasé worldling, whom nothing pleases or even moves. And there was little debating after the Chancellor of the Exchequer sat down. Disraeli spoke, but he took no notice of the bill. He rose to express "something akin to astonishment" that the Government had not told them when and how it meant to proceed with the bill. Was the right hon. gentleman ever astonished? The world has often been astonished at him, but we question whether he was ever astonished. Whilst the Conservative leader was up there was cheering, of course. It was not animated, though; rather of the muffled sort, we thought. Sir Hugh Cairns, too, lifted up his testimony against the Government on the matter of procedure. And then, after some wise words from Mr. Bouvier, and words not wise, though natural, from Sir Rainald Knightley, the proceedings on this stage of the bill ended. Only think of that! And this is the bill about which we had all that pother; those ninety-one speeches, those sixty hours of talk; all that thundering and lightning, that gathering of 637 members, and that exciting division at three o'clock in the morning!

WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS.

It is right, though, to say that another reason, and a very plausible one, has been suggested why this bill was received so coldly. Nearly half the House—the half which demanded the bill with so much vehemence—really, after all, did not want it; but, on the contrary, were very sorry when the Government promised it, and very much chagrined when it came—as chagrined as a card-player is when, having played a capital card, by which he expects to win the game and sweep the stakes, he sees the ace of trumps quietly slipped by his opponent on to the table. The Conservatives demanded this bill. "We will not consider your enfranchisement bill till you give us the bill for the redistribution of the seats," thinking, probably, that no such bill was ready, or that the Government were obstinately bent upon not presenting it. "The bill, the bill! we will have the bill!" shouted the Adulamites. "The bill, the bill!" echoed more loudly the Conservatives; and, as they shouted, visions of Government defeat and possible political combinations which would drive the Whigs from Downing-street and open the way for the shouters to place and power, rose before their minds. What wonder, then, that mortification, and not enthusiasm, dominated their tones when they saw this bill laid upon the table! And so you see, readers, there are in this party machine "veils within veils," as old Weller would have said; whilst as to the motive power, that, to all but the initiated, is past finding out.

PEACE AFTER WAR.

On Tuesday night the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced his promised Church-rate Bill; and when we saw the notice of this bill upon the paper we foretold a full House and a long if not a stormy debate; but lo! when he rose to expound his measure there were not more than sixty or seventy members present, and they, almost to a man, were as tame as pet lambs. Lord John Manners gave us a characteristic snarl—just one—and that was the only jarring note to disturb the general harmony of the debate. Many of the old champions of the Church were not even present. Walpole and Henley were both away; Disraeli was conspicuous by his absence and the Conservative side of the House generally looked as if a droning speech from an Augustus Smith was expected rather than a bill to settle this ancient quarrel from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. And as to those members who were present, whether champions or opponents of church rate, their amiability and unanimity were wonderful. Mr. Newdegate was "grateful for the bill." That stern and uncompromising defender of the faith, Mr. Beresford Hope, "accepted it," and made a most tolerant and charitable speech. Mr. Selwyn, another famous watch-dog of the Church (as a University member, of course, ought to be), gave forth no warning bark; whilst, on the other side, Baines said only a few words, and Hadfield was silent. What is there in this bill that it should work such wonders? Is there anything new? Nothing. It merely carries out suggestions that have often been made before; but the time had not then come for peace. Ten years ago compromise was impossible. Both sides shouted war to the knife, and no surrender. But now the belligerents are exhausted, and the war is to end in this way. Well, readers, is it not generally so? An ardent advocate of war once taunted a friend of peace by sneering out that "he was for peace at any price;" whereupon he got this reply, "I am for peace at any reasonable price before war; you are for peace at almost any price after war. This is the only difference between us."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 4.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Select Committee on the Ecclesiastical Commission Bill was nominated by Earl Russell. A few measures of minor public importance were forwarded a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OYSTER FISHERIES IN IRELAND.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply, Lord J. BROWNE called attention to the present state of the public oyster fisheries of Ireland, and to a trial at the last Spring Assizes at Sligo, where the validity of the title of an oyster license granted by the Fishery Commissioners was, for the first time, called into question, and asked whether it was the intention of Government to introduce a bill to carry out the recommendations of the Commission on seacoast fisheries by granting titles which shall be final and conclusive.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND admitted the necessity which existed for immediate legislation, and promised that a bill should be prepared on the subject without delay.

THE HABEAS CORPUS IN IRELAND.

In the course of a discussion on the operation of the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act in Ireland, Mr. MAGUIRE said that the extent to which persons of the peasant class had been arrested for the use of language that had laid them open to the charge of Fenianism had given rise to such a panic in some portions of Ireland that the labouring population were emigrating to America in considerable numbers.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE said he did not concur with Mr. Maguire in attributing the increased emigration to the action of the Executive; but he was happy to respond to the hon. gentleman's appeal by assuring him, on the part of the Government, that if the people would only keep clear of the men who were promoting the Fenian conspiracy and make up their minds to return to the pursuit of honest industry, they would be as safe from the exercise of the powers with which the Lord Lieutenant was armed as any gentleman in the House.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATY WITH AMERICA.

Mr. WATKIN rose to call attention to the termination of the reciprocity treaty with the United States of America, and to the course pursued by her Majesty's Government in reference thereto, when, at a few minutes past eight o'clock, and before the hon. member had made much progress with his speech, the House was counted out.

MONDAY, MAY 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Prosecution Expenses Bill, the Dockyard Extension Act Amendment Bill, and the Contagious Diseases Bill were read a second time. The Drainage and Improvement of Land (Ireland) Bill passed through Committee, and the Exchequer Bills and Bonds Bill was read a third time and passed.

A short conversation ensued on the proposal to go into Committee on the Selling and Hawking Goods on Sundays Bill, and it was finally agreed to postpone this stage for a week, Lord Tennyham announcing his intention to move that their Lordships go into Committee that day six months.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
CONTINENTAL AFFAIRS.

In reply to Mr. Alderman Salomons.

Mr. LAYARD expressed his great regret that he could not give the House any satisfactory information or assurance with respect to the present untoward state of Continental affairs. The opinion of her Majesty's Government on the subject was, he said, well known, and it was equally well known that, if solicited, they were prepared to use their good offices to avert those hostilities which it was feared were on the eve of breaking out. In the present critical state of affairs he was sure the House would not expect him to go into details.

In answer to Mr. H. Baillie.

Mr. LAYARD added that a congress had been under discussion, but that no proposition had been made.

REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER then moved for leave to bring in a bill for the redistribution of seats. Having referred to what, in his opinion, were the principles upon which redistribution should proceed, the right hon. gentleman observed that the Government had come to the conclusion that it would be most agreeable to equity that no borough should be absolutely extinguished. Under these circumstances they would resort to the Scotch and Welsh system of grouping boroughs. A strong reason for this course was that experience had shown grouped boroughs to be almost entirely free from corruption. Having to take votes in a plurality of places was found to be an obstacle to bribery. After some further prefatory remarks, balancing the merits in this respect of the bills of 1854 and 1860, he stated that the bill proposed to obtain for disposal forty-nine seats by the double operation of withdrawing one member from every borough at present possessed of two with a population of less than 8000, and by grouping together as many of such boroughs as could be collected together with geographical convenience. Groups having a population of under 15,000 would have one member; those above that limit two members; and, while the lowest in population would have 10,000, the highest would have 21,000. The result of this process of grouping, by which forty-one seats would be gained, would be as follows:—Woodstock, Wallingford, Abingdon, 2; Liskeard, Bodmin, Launceston, 2; Totnes, Dartmouth, Ashburton, 1; Bridport, Honiton, Lyme Regis, 1; Dorchester, Wareham, 1; Maldon, Harwich, 1; Cirencester, Tewkesbury, Evesham, 2; Andover, Lynton, 1; Ludlow, Leominster, 1; Eye, Thetford, 1; Horsham, Midhurst, Petersfield, Arundel, 2; Chippenham, Malmesbury, Calne, 2; Westbury, Wells, 1; Devizes, Marlborough, 1; Ripon, Knaresborough, Thirsk, 2; Richmond, Northallerton, 1. Besides these the following boroughs would remain grouped, and would be deprived of one member each:—Bridge-north, Buckingham, Cokermonth, Hertford, Huntingdon, Lichfield, Marlow, Newport. This would leave forty-nine seats at the disposal of the Government. Mr. Gladstone, after a few general remarks on the respective claims of counties and towns, then announced that twenty-six of these seats would be given to the counties, by dividing South Lancashire into two parts, giving each division three members, and by giving a third member to each division of a county which, not already having three members, according to the Census of 1861, possessed a population of 150,000, exclusive of the present or future borough constituencies. These additions are thus represented:—South Lancashire, by the creation of a new division, 3; Cheshire (North), 1; Cheshire (South), 1; Cornwall (West), 1; Derbyshire (North), 1; Devon (North), 1; Devon (South), 1; Durham (North), 1; Durham (South), 1; Essex (North), 1; Essex (South), 1; Kent (West), 1; Kent (East), 1; Lancashire (North), 1; Lincolnshire (parts of Lindsey), 1; Norfolk (West), 1; Somerset (West), 1; Somerset (East), 1; Staffordshire (North and South), 2; Surrey (East), 1; North Riding of York, 1; West Riding of York (N. and S. Divisions), 2; in all 26. It was not intended to give any additional seat to Middlesex, on the ground that, on the whole, it had affinity rather to the metropolitan than the county constituency. An additional member would be given to the following boroughs: Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Salford. The Tower Hamlets would be split into two divisions, two members being given to each; and Chelsea and Kensington, being taken out of the Middlesex county constituencies, would be created another metropolitan constituency. In addition to these, the following new constituencies would be created, with one member each:—Burnley, Stalybridge, Gravesend, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Dewsbury, London University. Thus Mr. Gladstone disposed of forty-two seats, and he created much laughter by announcing that the remaining seven would be given to the following Scotch constituencies:—Ayrshire, Lanarkshire, Aberdeenshire, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Scotch Universities. The enfranchisement scheme, disposing of forty-nine seats, may be thus summed up:—

| | |
|--|----|
| Additional members to counties | 26 |
| Additional members to boroughs | 5 |
| To new constituencies | 11 |
| To Scotland | 7 |
| Total | 49 |

Passing to his second head—the rearrangement of boundaries—Mr. Gladstone, after showing with great elaboration that the plan proposed in Mr. Disraeli's bill of 1859 for this purpose would have led to great difficulty and embarrassment, explained that this bill provided that, wherever a municipal borough extended over an area not included in the Parliamentary borough, the Parliamentary area should be widened to that extent, making the Parliamentary and the municipal boundaries identical, and with regard to the new constituencies their boundaries would be settled by the Inclosure Commissioners. Future extensions would be regulated by the bill which Sir G. Grey was about to bring in for the rectification of municipal boundaries, which would enable the Queen in Council, subject to the approval of Parliament, on the petition of the inhabitants, to add to a municipal borough any outlying district which expressed its willingness. In the case of any such enlargement for municipal purposes this bill provided that a co-extension of the Parliamentary boundaries should follow. On the important question of procedure, Mr. Gladstone announced that, within certain limits, the Government were willing to consult the convenience of the House. They were determined not to lose time by postponing the question in any way; but they were willing either to go on sitting or to agree to a short adjournment, say from July or August to September or October; but they would not advise her Majesty to prorogue Parliament until the whole question was disposed of.

A short but extremely animated conversation followed, which turned almost entirely on the question of procedure.

Mr. DISRAELI expressed his surprise at the undecided course taken by the Government, and called upon them, amid loud cheers from the Opposition, to state in what manner and on what day they would ask the House to pronounce an opinion on this bill.

Mr. BOUVIER, after expressing a general approval of the bill, proceeded to recommend that it should be read a second time before the Franchise Bill was committed, and that both bills should be referred to the same Committee. In this manner the objects of Earl Grosvenor's amendment would be substantially attained, and the question would be put in a fair way of settlement, which, he was of opinion, was desired by the great bulk of the House.

Sir H. CAIRNS contrasted with great force the varying intimations which the Government had given as to the course they would pursue and the successive stages by which they had been driven to their present position. The Government, he contended, were abdicating their functions by leaving it to the House to decide how it would proceed.

The only member who entered into the merits of the scheme was General PELL, who created much merriment by announcing with great warmth, in a very decided tone, that, though anxious for an extension of the suffrage, he should oppose this bill at every opportunity, after which

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that he proposed to read the bill a second time on Monday night, and would postpone the committal of the Franchise Bill until that day.

The bill was then read a first time.

THE SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

The LORD ADVOCATE introduced the Reform Bill for Scotland, which he explained would reduce the borough franchise to £7, thereby adding 27,000 voters to the rolls, and in the counties would fix the occupation franchise at £14 in lieu of £50, and the property franchise at £5 instead of £10, but with the necessity of residence. It contained also provisions in regard to registration, which he explained in detail, but did not deal with the redistribution of seats in any manner beyond that already explained by Mr. Gladstone.

After some remarks from Sir J. Ferguson, Sir E. Colebrook, Mr. McLaren, Mr. H. Baillie, and Colonel Sykes, who concurred in supporting generally the claim of Scotland to increased representation, and indicated from different points of view anomalies in the county representation, and by Sir J. S. Maxwell, who urged the claim of the Scotch Universities to a second member, leave was given to bring in the bill.

THE IRISH REFORM BILL.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE subsequently asked leave to bring in a bill to amend the representation of the people in Ireland. It was not, he observed, proposed to interfere with the county franchise, as it had been adjusted as lately as 1850 by the bill of Sir William Somerville. The franchise in boroughs would, however, be reduced from £8 to £6, which would add 5500 electors to the register. There would also be a lodger and savings bank franchise similar to those proposed for England. It was proposed to give another member to Dublin city and another to the county of Cork, and to give one member to the Queen's University, which was about to be put upon the same footing as the University of London. Six of the smaller boroughs would be grouped, and seven boroughs, with a population under 8000 each, would so far lose their individual character that they would be augmented by the addition of other adjacent towns.

The bill was brought in after a short discussion, in which Mr. Whiteside, Mr. Cogan, The O'Connor Don, Major Knox, Mr. Pim, and Lord Claud Hamilton took part.

THE FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means, resolutions abolishing the duties on wood and timber and wooden ships, altering the duty on wine imported in bottles, abolishing the duty on pepper, reducing the duty on stage carriages and horses let on hire, and imposing the income tax were agreed to.

In Committee on the National Debt, a resolution was agreed to declaring it to be expedient that powers be granted for cancelling the charge on the Consolidated Fund for savings banks of £24,000,000 and for creating equivalent terminable annuities in lieu thereof.

TUESDAY, MAY 8.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE IMPENDING WAR ON THE CONTINENT.

The Earl of CADOGAN asked whether her Majesty's Government had made any offers of mediation, either alone or in concert with the Emperor of the French and the Emperor of Russia, to the Governments of Austria, Prussia, and Italy, with a view to a pacific settlement of the questions in dispute between the three latter Powers.

The Earl of CLARENDON said that at first it appeared as if moderate counsels would have prevailed and the calamities of war be averted. But within the past fortnight that hope had been daily diminished, although each Power declared that it had no intention to attack the other and was only arming against an attack which both declared neither would make. When, however, the armies of those countries were marching to the same frontier, there was too much reason to fear that a collision, either through design or accident, must take place. With regard to making a tender of our good offices, we could not act alone. By ourselves we could do nothing against a determination that war was the most effective means of carrying out ambitious projects. That that determination would not be enforced we might still continue to hope; but there was no doubt that more than a million of men were now armed and ready for action. And he must say that it was a most saddening reflection, in this enlightened age, that Europe should be menaced with a conflict for which there was no *casus belli*, and which was not only without cause, but without justification.

After some observations by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, Earl Grey, and the Earl of Derby; in reply to the Earl of Hardwicke,

The Earl of CLARENDON stated that inquiries had been made in order to ascertain whether the good offices of her Majesty's Government would be useful if they were tendered, but the answers were not encouraging.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IMPERIAL GAS COMPANY.

The Imperial Gas Companies Bill was submitted to discussion on the order for the second reading; but the opinion of the House was so strongly and generally expressed against the proposal to erect gasworks within 300 yards of Victoria Park that Mr. Staniland, who had charge of the measure, felt constrained to withdraw it, which he did amidst some cheering.

CHURCH RATES.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved for leave to introduce a bill for the abolition of compulsory church rates. He stated that the measure provided that no suit should hereafter be instituted or proceedings taken in any ecclesiastical court, or before any magisterial court, to compel the payment of church rate in any parish or place in England and Wales. It also made provision for the discharge of debts contracted on the security of church rate under the system now existing. It further provided that, notwithstanding anything contained in the Act with regard to the abolition of suits and processes for the recovery of church rate, it should be lawful, with the exception of parishes where church rate was sufficiently provided for by endowments or fixed funds, for the parishioners in vestry assembled to assess a voluntary rate, to be applicable to any purposes for which church rates had been heretofore lawfully applied. Another clause defined the class of persons who were to enter upon the discussion or decision of proceedings affecting the voluntary rate. It provided that, if at any discussion a difference of opinion arose and a poll was demanded, the votes should be entered in a book or on a schedule, declaring the willingness of the persons who gave their votes to pay their quota towards the rate in case it were passed by a majority. But the most important clause in the bill was that which provided compensation for the compulsory abolition of processes. He further proposed that persons who declined to pay a rate should, after a certain lapse of time, be deemed ineligible to fill the office of churchwarden for ecclesiastical purposes. The only other material provision was that persons who had declined to pay a voluntary rate should, if they changed their minds, on payment or tender of payment of their proper proportion of the voluntary assessment, be entitled to all the power of voting as if they had in the first instance voluntarily paid their share of the assessment. He made the proposal in a spirit of peace, and the offering had already been accepted by a large portion of those who had been engaged in this controversy; and, being made in the spirit of peace, he sincerely trusted that the attainment of peace would be the result.

After a rather long discussion, leave was given to bring in the bill.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. C. W. WYNN brought up the report of the Devonport Election Committee, unseating Messrs. Fleming and Ferrand.

Mr. COLVILLE moved the second reading of the Clerks to Justices Bill, the object of which is to secure to magistrates' clerks a more satisfactory position as regards both their tenure of office and emoluments.

The second reading was opposed by Mr. GOLDNEY; and, after a lengthy discussion, the bill was negatived.

The Veterinary Surgeons' Bill, the object of which is to prevent unqualified persons from practising as veterinary surgeons, was, after some discussion, read a second time.

A long debate arose on the Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill, which was stoutly opposed by Mr. WHITESIDE. The discussion lasted until a quarter to six, when it was stopped by the standing orders of the House.

THURSDAY, MAY 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

This being Ascension Day, the Peers, according to custom, did not meet.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir Stafford Northcote took the oath and his seat for North Devon. Mr. Capper took the oath and his seat for Sandwich. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Eykin took the oath and their seats for New Windsor.

NEW WRIT.

On the motion of Mr. Brand, the Speaker was authorised to issue a new writ for the election of a member for the county of Kildare in room of Lord Otho Fitzgerald, who, since his election, had accepted the office of Treasurer of her Majesty's Household.

ROMAN CATHOLIC LOTTERY.

Mr. WHALLEY, with reference to a lottery publicly advertised to be drawn for on Saturday, the 12th inst., at Edinburgh, for the benefit of St. Vincent Roman Catholic School, asked the Lord Advocate whether his attention had been drawn thereto, as being a violation of the law respecting lotteries; and what, if any, steps had been or would be taken by him to give effect to the law in that behalf.

The LORD ADVOCATE said the course he had generally taken was to prosecute where the lotteries were for private gain, but not when they were for public purposes. He did not see why there should be sectarian complaints. It was only against Roman Catholic lotteries that such complaints were brought forward.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

In answer to Mr. Read, Sir G. GREY said three weeks had yet to elapse before the Order in Council expired. The Privy Council had not taken into consideration what they would do after that time, but he thought it was extremely improbable that they would advise unrestricted sales of cattle at markets and fairs throughout the country.

BANKRUPTCY LAW, &c., AMENDMENT BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of this bill. He pointed out several objections to the existing law, which he characterised as the continuation of an ancient and barbarous system, and said that by the present bill it was proposed to abolish imprisonment for debt and to prevent a debtor from becoming bankrupt on his own petition, so that the question of bankruptcy would be left with the general body of the creditors. The terms of discharge would be somewhat strict, to prevent any undue advantage being taken; but it was proper, when these terms were complied with, that the debtor should obtain his discharge.

After some discussion, the bill was read a second time.

LAND TENURE IN MADRAS AND BOMBAY.

Mr. SMOLLETT called the attention of the House to the present condition of land tenure in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay in reference to the supply of raw cotton. The hon. gentleman drew a most heartrending picture of the state of the peasantry in these Presidencies, upon whom the cultivation of cotton entirely depended. Owing to the pressure of the land tax they were kept in the condition of serfs, unable to raise the most trifling capital, and had neither energy nor inducement to apply themselves to the cultivation of cotton. He concluded by moving a resolution to the effect that the land tenure in Madras and Bombay deserved the serious consideration of the Government, with a view to its amendment.

Mr. STANFELD said that in the year 1862 a plan had been laid down with a view to a permanent settlement of the land tenure in those parts of India referred to, and the result was that they had a peasantry with whose industry no other system could compete, for they had a personal interest in it, and they were daily growing in wealth.

The motion was withdrawn, and the House then went into Committee of Supply upon the remainder of the Civil Service Estimates.

THE SCHOLARS of Nichol-street Ragged School, Spitalfields, have contributed, in pence and halfpence, the handsome sum of £4 in aid of the life-boat fund now being raised in many of the Sunday schools in London for the purchase of a life-boat, to be presented to the National Life-boat Institution.

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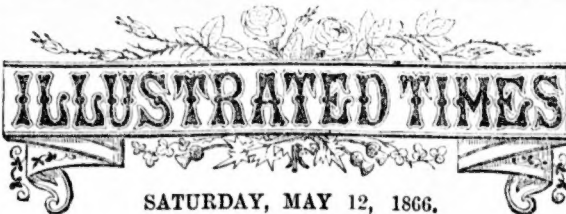
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THE GAS COMPANIES AND VICTORIA PARK.

PUBLIC companies, being corporations, have of course no consciences; but the London gas companies seem to be the most unconscionable of corporations. Not content with furnishing the inhabitants of the metropolis with a very inferior article at a very exorbitant price; not satisfied with the large dividends they are pocketing and the monopoly they enjoy, the gas companies have no hesitation in squatting down in the centre of dense populations, and erecting their atmosphere-defiling works in the midst of houses, gardens, and nursery grounds, where they speedily destroy all vegetation and seriously injure the public health. Certain of these corporations have actually had the hardihood to propose establishing themselves in the immediate vicinity of Victoria Park, one of the most beautiful, as it is one of the most essential, open spaces in the metropolis.

The proposal, which had nearly obtained the sanction of Parliament, was to erect a set of the most extensive gasworks in the world within three hundred yards of the eastern lung of London, every trace of verdure, every flower, every shrub in which, would speedily have felt the baneful influences of the unwholesome exhalations evolved in the manufacture of the enormous quantities of gas which the contemplated works would have been capable of producing. The air usually breathed by the persons who frequent Victoria Park, and who prize dearly the privileges it provides for them, is not of the most salubrious character, and it was monstrous to propose to offend their noses and injure their lungs at the only spot in the neighbourhood where a draught of wholesome air is to be obtained. And this, too, in addition to the destruction of the park, which has cost the country upwards of £72,000, besides £22,000 expended by the Metropolitan Board of Works in making suitable approaches to it!

But what was all this to conscienceless and tasteless corporations? What are public health, public pleasure, public expenditure, and things of beauty for the poor of Bethnal-green and its vicinity, when placed in comparison with the convenience of gas companies? Nothing, of course! What do companies care for the public good? Why should companies have consciences or taste? Perish health, perish beauty, perish everything; but secure dividends to the shareholders. That is the creed of companies. But, since companies have no consideration for the interests of the public or of individuals, the public and individuals are in no way bound to have any consideration for the interests of companies. And so we rejoice that the bill of the Imperial Gas Company has been rejected by the House of Commons; and, for that good work, all thanks to Mr. Tite, Lord John Manners, and those who so energetically supported them.

The attack upon the poor man's park, however, though postponed, is probably not abandoned. The Chartered Gas Company have still a bill with a like object before Parliament, and the attempt of the Imperial Company may, and probably will, be renewed; and it behoves all who call themselves the friends of the people, and of that portion of the people who are least able to protect themselves, to be on their guard against another effort to carry out the project which has just been frustrated. Selfish persons, much more selfish corporations, are apt to be persistent in plans which they deem likely to advance their interests; and it is more than probable that the Imperial and other gas companies will renew their attempt to hedge round Victoria Park with a network of poison-breathing retorts. They must be well watched. The fate of the bill on Tuesday night shows that there are good men and true in the House of Commons, who will do their duty when it is pointed out to them, however officials, who are specially bound to guard the public interests, may neglect theirs. Lord John Manners and Mr. Tite figure honourably in this matter, while the Hon. Mr. Cowper, who should never have allowed the proposal to be made, comes out of the affair but lamely. There cannot be a doubt that had the salubrity of Hyde Park been in question, instead of that of Victoria Park, the right hon. gentleman would have been alive to the importance of the matter. As he, however, appears insensible to his duty, it is all the more necessary for the inhabitants and clergy of the east end of London to be on their guard, and ready to summon their real friends to the rescue, should a like attempt be again made, as is probable will be the case.

A point, however, of greater importance than even the preservation of one of the most useful of our metropolitan parks is involved in this question of the site of gasworks, and one in which not London merely, but every town in the kingdom is interested. Gas is now an indispensable article in all towns; but it is not at all necessary that it should be manu-

factured within the bounds of the town where it is consumed. It can be made quite as well at a distance from human habitations as in their midst. We have of late years been legislating with a view to secure purity of air by compelling the consumption of smoke by the owners of factories, steam-boats, and so forth; we have made an effort to restore the purity of our streams by forbidding the proprietors of dyeworks and chemical manufactories to deposit their refuse in the nearest river; at the instigation of no less a person than Lord Derby, we have endeavoured to save vegetation by compelling the owners of works in which certain processes are carried on to heighten their chimneys and otherwise prevent the deposition of deleterious matter on the surrounding fields; but we seem indifferent to the injurious influences of one of the most obnoxious and perilous of manufactures. A powder-mill is scarcely a more dangerous neighbour than is a gasometer, and is certainly not nearly so offensive to the senses. Then why should we isolate powder-mills and powder-magazines, and yet tolerate gasometers in our very midst? No reason that will stand investigation can be given for this except the convenience of gas companies; and the convenience of gas companies is consulted because such corporations, though lacking consciences, are yet strong in Parliamentary influence. We fear there is much truth in Mr. Gladstone's remark, that whereas the unreformed House of Commons jobbed for individuals, the reformed House jobs for classes. Companies are a powerful class, and so companies are favoured, and may do anything, even to robbing the community of its health and safety—things infinitely more valuable than the contents of the Exchequer. The public stands greatly in need of being protected against companies; and we trust that, when occasion requires, the public welfare will never want champions to defend it. A general enactment on the subject of gasworks, however, is one of the most urgent wants of the time; and it is to be hoped that, when Parliament has done with the discussion of political changes, it will devote a share of its attention to this most vital question.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN, in person, held a Court on Saturday, at Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty, who was accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, the Princess Helena, and Princes Alfred and Arthur, appeared to be in excellent health. The Court presented a brilliant appearance, but the presentations were confined to a limited number.

LORD OTTO FITZGERALD, M.P. for the county of Kildare, is about to be appointed Treasurer of the Household, in the room of Viscount Bury, who lost his seat in Parliament at the last election.

THE MARQUIS of NORMANBY, late Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, will be appointed Lord in Waiting to her Majesty.

MR. NEWDEGATE insinuated in the House of Commons the other night that Mr. Whalley was a Jesuit in disguise!

THE FOREIGN OFFICE has issued the following notice to travellers:—"English travellers intending to enter the Austrian States, either by the Tyrol or any part of the Italian frontier, are recommended to have their passports *visé* at either the Austrian Embassy in London or Paris."

THE NEW ASSOCIATES of the Royal Academy elected on Tuesday evening were Mr. Wells, Mr. E. Nicol, Mr. W. F. Yeames, Mr. Pettie (painters), Mr. Durham (sculptor), and Mr. G. Street (architect).

THE BELGIAN CHAMBER of REPRESENTATIVES proposes to erect a monument to the memory of the late King Leopold.

A NEW PUBLIC PARK is about to be formed at Manchester.

SALMON-FISHING has been unusually good this season in Ireland, the abundance of fish being attributed to the beneficial operation of the new fishery law.

THE CHARING-CROSS RAILWAY, some two miles and a quarter long, has cost about £4,000,000 sterling.

A TRI-WEEKLY STEAM-PACKET COMMUNICATION by day passages has now been established between Weymouth and the Channel Islands.

PETROLEUM has been discovered in large quantities in the island of Cuba.

THE STRIKE of SHIPBUILDERS on THE TREES has terminated, the men resuming work on the masters' terms.

THE LORDS of the ADMIRALTY have ordered that all the officers and workmen of the Chatham Dockyard engaged in the launch of the Northumberland shall have one day's leave of absence granted them.

MR. G. SHAW LEEFEVER, who has accepted office under Government, was re-elected for Reading, on Saturday last, without opposition.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE of ROME have issued a proclamation declaring themselves ready to assist young men who may be willing to leave that city in order to take part in the war of independence.

SWITZERLAND, in regard to the probability of war, has obtained a declaration from the Great Powers reaffirming her neutrality.

THE TOTAL NUMBER of VOLUNTEERS in England and Wales is 142,701, being at the rate of little more than seven per thousand of the whole population; and in Scotland 31,421, or in the proportion of nearly twelve and a half per thousand.

IN UPPER LOUISIANA and MISSISSIPPI the buffalo gnats are killing off mules and horses. On one plantation thirty-eight, on another twenty-five, and on others twenty, were destroyed in a single night.

COUNT BISMARCK'S NAME is likely to take its place in the slang French vocabulary. It appears that when a person is suspected of foul play at cards or billiards he is said to be "bismarquer," as equivalent to "tricher," and the insinuation is resented as an insult. So much for fame.

TWO LADIES' CLUBS are reported to be flourishing in London—the Scuffers and the Jolly Dogs. The former takes its name from the ladies not having seats, but squatting as best they can on ottomans. The latter is certainly a misnomer.

THE FLAX FLY is committing sad ravages in the new flax crop in Suffolk. The fly is, in its present stage, a coal black. It afterwards assumes a white streak along its back. It is now about the size of a flea (oval shaped), and hops about as a land lobster, or the flea.

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE returned to his home at Ramsgate on Tuesday, from his mission of charity to the Jews at Jerusalem. During his stay in the Holy Land he laid the foundation-stone of some new almshouses to be built for occupation by the poor of his co-religionists.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE GREAT FLOWER SHOW takes place this day (Saturday). The entries are very numerous. Rockhills, the residence of the late Sir Joseph Paxton, will be thrown open to visitors on the occasion.

A MEETING of the UNIVERSITY of LONDON was held on Wednesday to confer degrees. It was stated incidentally that in 1865 there were no fewer than 616 candidates for matriculation, of whom 397 passed most successfully.

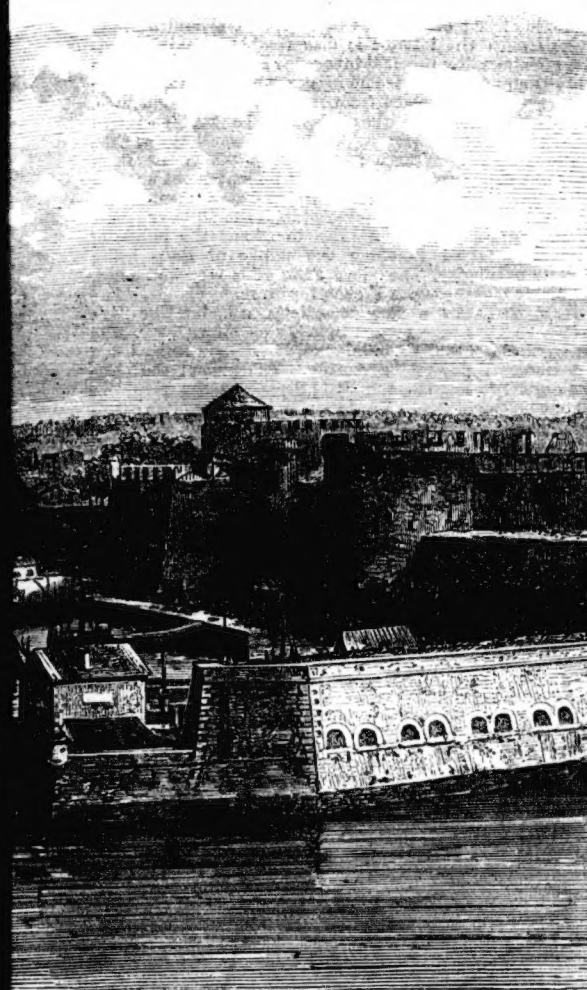
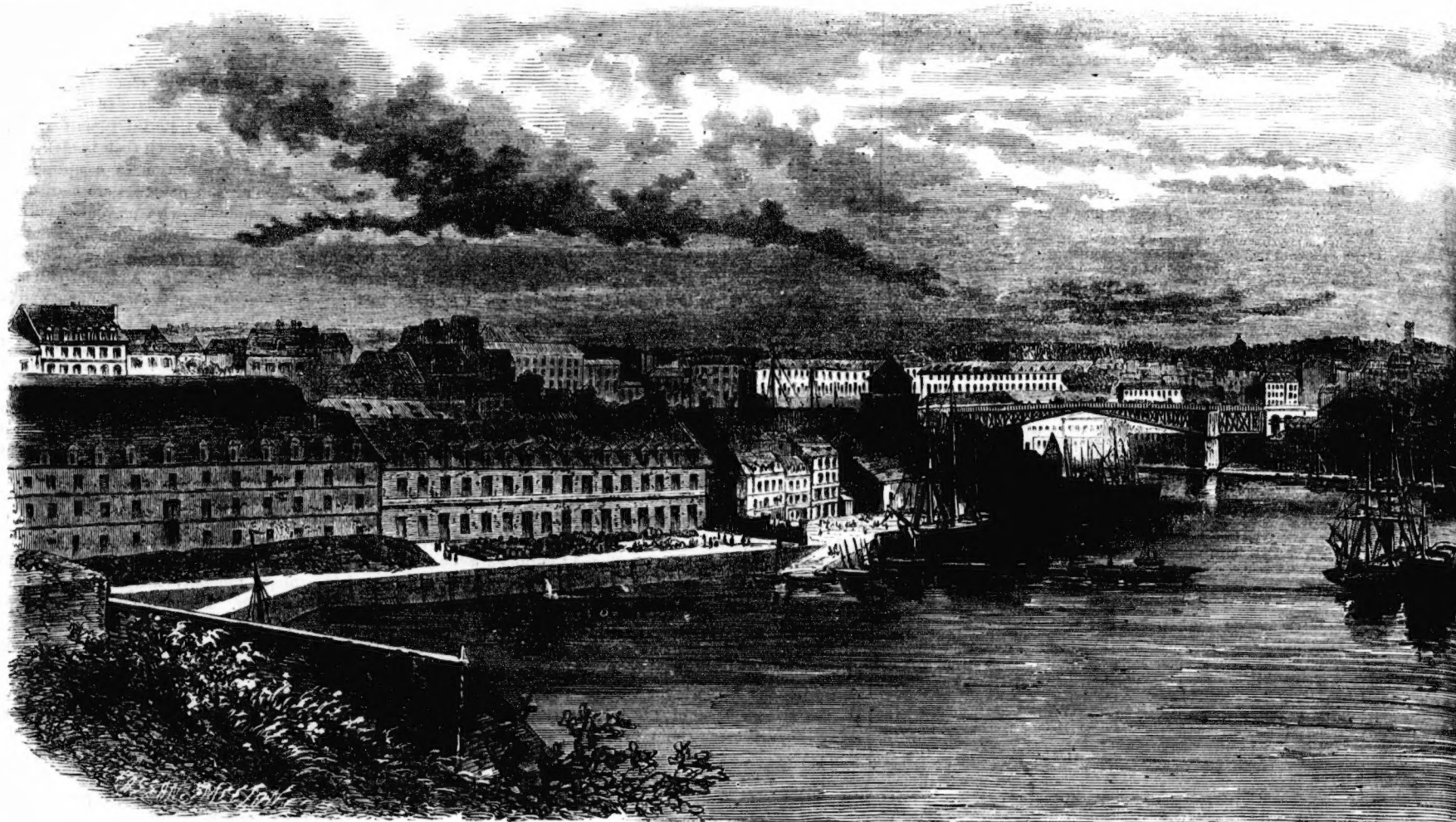
THE CLIFTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE, which stretches from rock to rock at a dizzy height above the bed of the River Severn, near Bristol, was the scene of a shocking occurrence on Wednesday. Mr. George Green, a member of a well-known firm of shipbuilders, committed suicide by precipitating himself from the bridge. He was killed on the spot.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM was reopened on Tuesday after being closed for a week for the usual thorough cleansing of the rooms and galleries. During this and the three following months the public will be admitted on Saturdays to view the collections from twelve to six o'clock, in addition to the ordinary days of admission—Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

A GRANDSON of the great naturalist Cuvier has just been appointed a sub-governor of the Bank of France, a situation not to be despised, inasmuch as besides the salary attached to it being 40,000 fr. per annum, a magnificent suite of apartments at the bank is appropriated to this functionary's use.

MESSRS. FERRAND and FLEMING, the Conservative members for Devonport, were unseated on Tuesday, on the ground of bribery. They were, however, personally exonerated by the Committee.

THE SPINNING DEPARTMENT of the extensive works of Messrs. Scott, Inglis, and Co., Bridgeton, Glasgow, was burned to the ground on Sunday morning last. Sixty thousand spindles in working order and 60,000 in preparation were destroyed. The weaving department was saved. The cause of the fire is unknown. Six hundred workpeople are thrown out of employment. The premises are insured.



THE ROADSTEAD AND FORTIFICATIONS OF BREST.

THE MILITARY PORT OF BREST.

We have already published some description, with illustrative Engravings, of the harbour of Toulon; and are now able to present our readers with a representation of the other great French seaport and some of the principal works which have from time to time been constructed there. Those tourists who paid a visit to Brest at the time of the meeting of the French and English ironclad squadron will at once recognise the truthfulness of our Illustrations; while, as this great French naval station is but a short journey from the Isle of Wight and is near the very mouth of the English Channel, it is probable that many Londoners will find their way there during the coming season. In the event, too (not at all improbable), of France being drawn into the war which seems impending on the Continent, Brest will play an important part, as it has done in most previous struggles in which the French have been engaged.

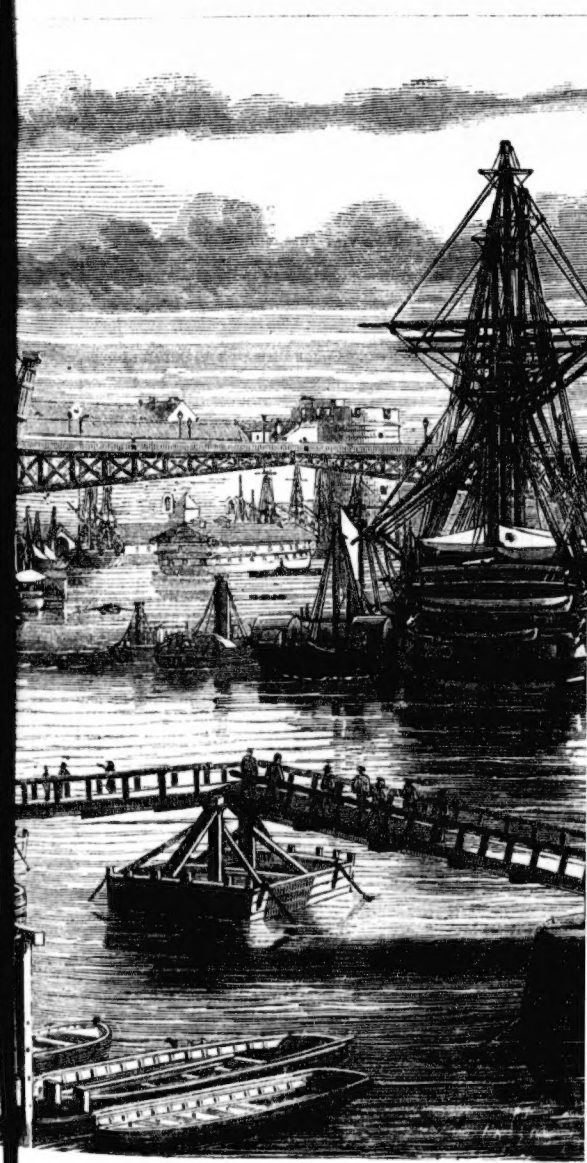
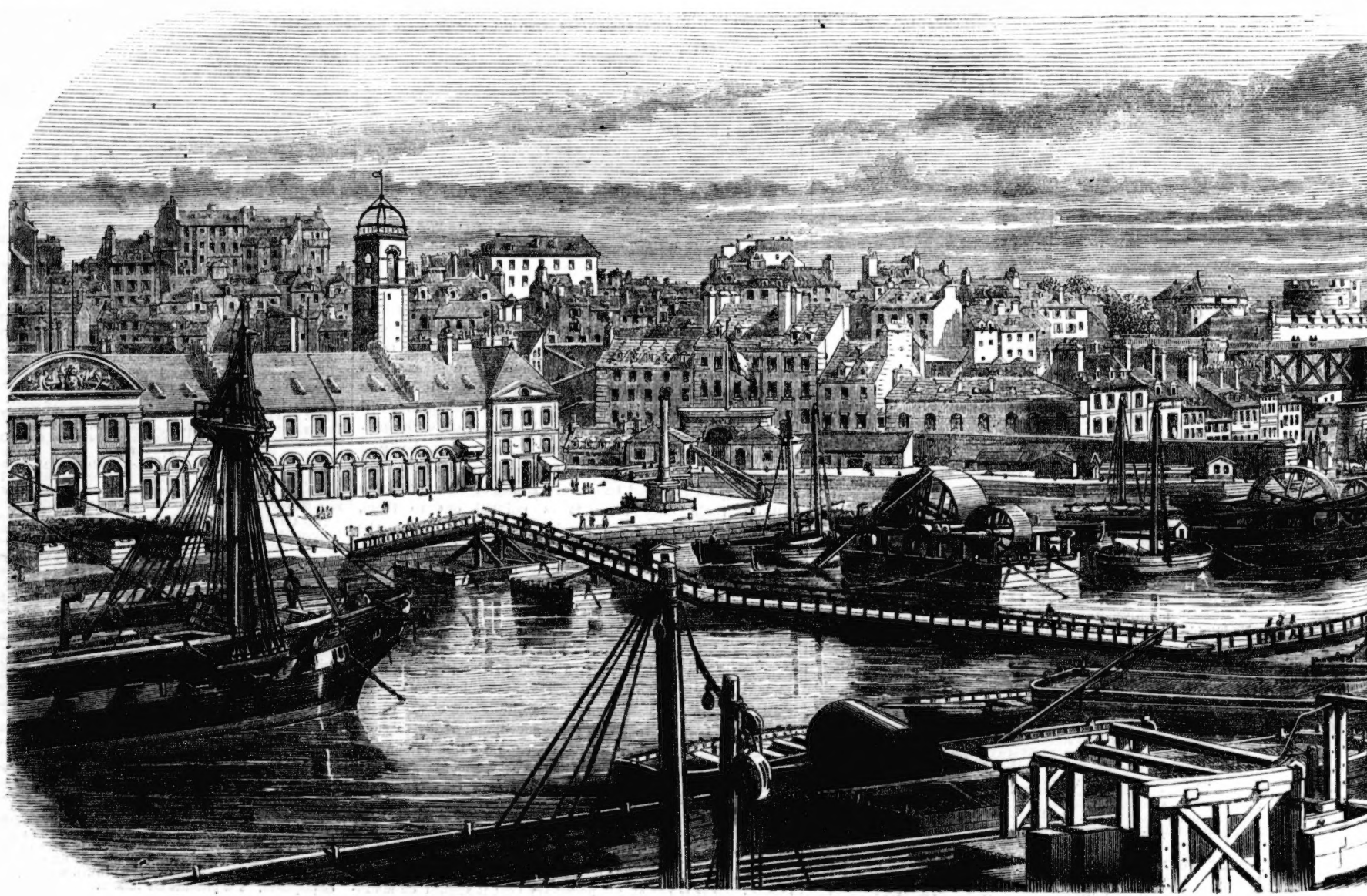
The importance of the place depends mainly on its situation and the natural advantages of land and water which it possesses, and which render it one of the most imposing fortresses in the world. Hewn out of the very place on which they stand, its fortifications, like

our own Portland breakwater, seem to have grown by some natural development; and they overlook a superb roadstead unsurpassed for the security of its anchorage. The town itself stands out a short distance from the mouth of the Elom and on both sides of the Penfeld, which divides it into two parts—Brest proper on the left and that queer suburb called Recouvrance on the right bank. The upper part of the town, as some of our readers will well remember, stands on the slope of a hill, with a declivity so abrupt that, as in the case of Guernsey, the streets leading to the lower town are in some cases provided with flights of steps. The upper town is well built and regular enough; but, oh! the queer, dirty, winding streets of the lower town, and these river-side thoroughfares of Recouvrance, a combination of the worst of Greenwich with the ordinary aspect of Wapping. But, in spite of all this, Brest is encircled by ramparts which, being planted, form agreeable promenades, and afford a fine view of the port and shipping, amidst which it is very pleasant to sit at one of the little white, gay cafés, and sip a demitasse of black coffee. The outer road is, after all, the most magnificent spectacle, although it is surpassed in extent by those of Constantinople and Rio de

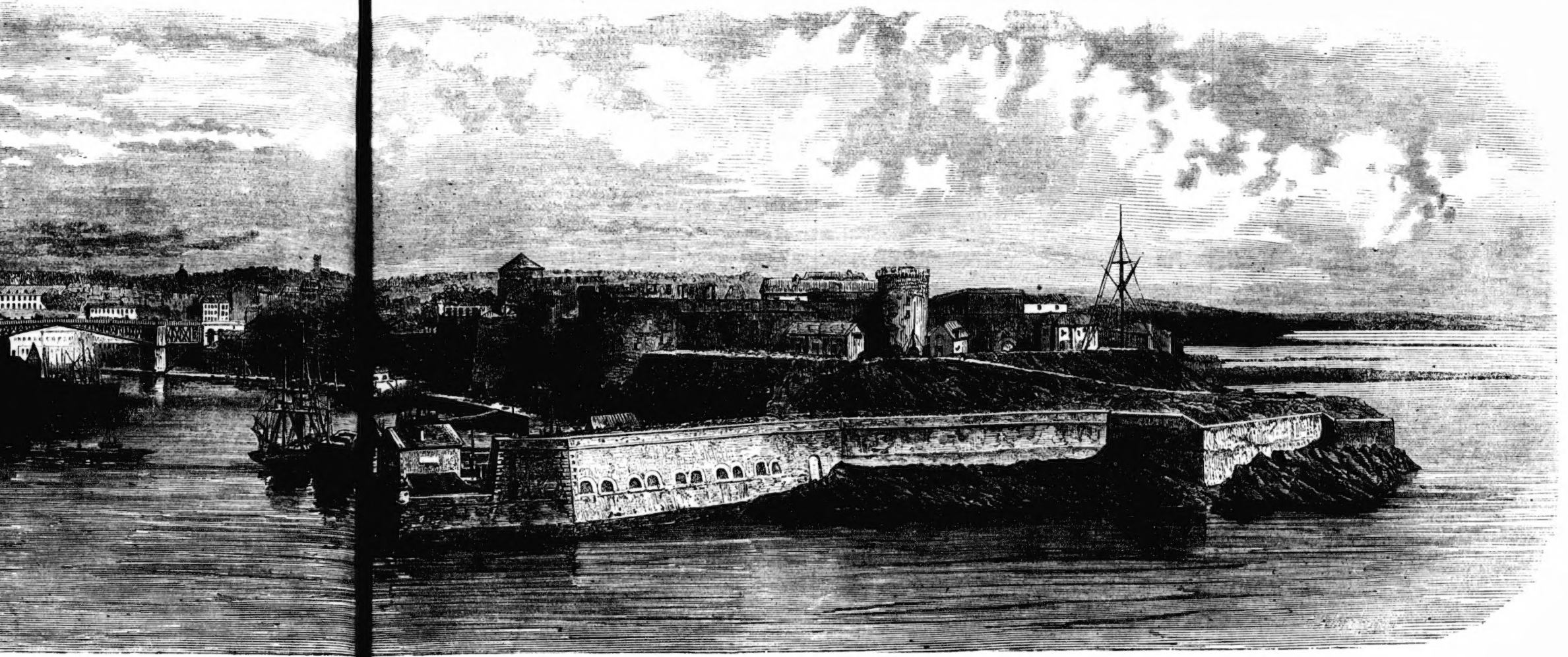
Janeiro. It communicates with the ocean by a single passage called the Goulet, a little less than a mile in width, and in this channel rise the Mingau rocks, which contract the passage still more, and compel vessels to pass immediately under the batteries. From this entrance to the mouth of the Elom the roadstead is about six miles in length. Its diameter varies considerably, from the irregularity of the shores, but in some places it is three miles, so that the port could contain all the navies in Europe. The Goulet is so completely defended that no hostile ship could enter it without being destroyed by the heavy ordnance which commands the channel from the various batteries, and the anchorage inside is still further protected by the guns that line the shore.

Outside the Goulet are the fort of St. Matthew and the lighthouse; the inner port, or harbour of Brest, being formed at the mouth of the Penfeld; it is narrow, but of considerable depth, and the mouth of the harbour can be closed by a boom. It is defended by several tiers of batteries rising from the water's edge. Near the entrance to the harbour is the old castle, once belonging to the Dukes of Brittany, which was transformed

into a fortification by Vauban in 1688; while there is a great battery and every provision for serving it. In addition to all these defences, the town is numerous batteries mounting several hundred pieces. On the summit of the hill, behind it, is the powder-magazine, the ships that enter the port deposit their powder. This is one of the most wonderful sights in Europe, both sides of a narrow but deep inlet of the sea. In course, the building-slips, dry docks, sail-houses, ropewalks, foundry, sailors' barracks, and the convict station, as well as yards, boat-sheds, and building-yards. The victuals provided with a great series of ovens, a slaughter-house, &c.; and so perfect was its arrangement even so long ago that when the French and Spanish ships lay in Brest 500 were supplied daily. The town has also a good natural history cabinet, a botanical garden, a marine museum, and several schools and colleges. Although Brest has occupied a Roman site, no mention of it occurs in history till 1240, at which period its castle was ceded to John,



THE MILITARY PORT OF BREST.



THE ROADSTEAD AND FORTIFICATIONS OF BREST.

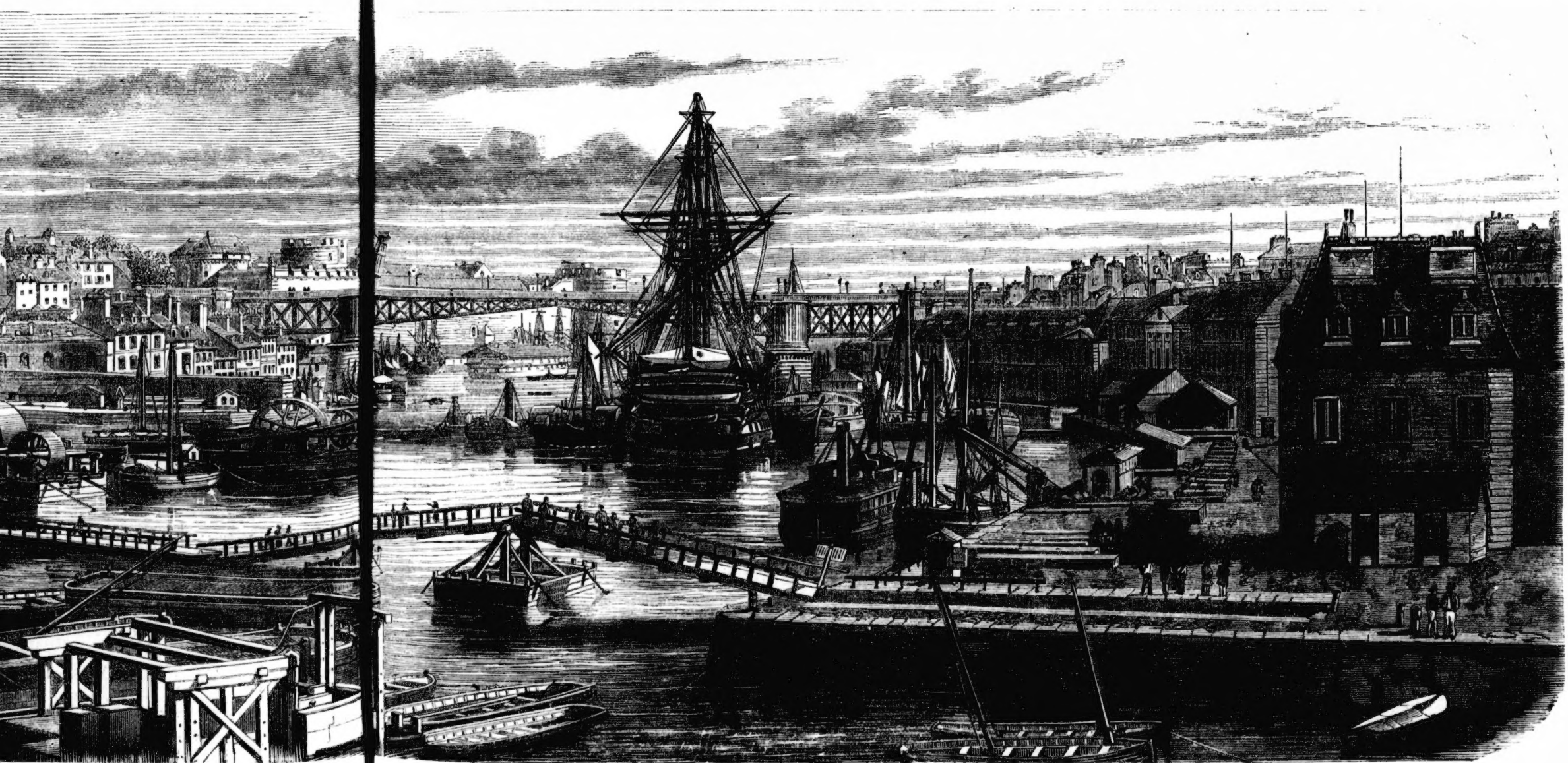
communicates with the ocean by a single passage, a little less than a mile in width, and in this the Mingan rocks, which contract the passage still compel vessels to pass immediately under the batteries. The entrance to the mouth of the Elom the roadstead is about length. Its diameter varies considerably, from the of the shores, but in some places it is three miles, so it could contain all the navies in Europe. The Goulet is defended that no hostile ship could enter it without being destroyed by the heavy ordnance which commands the entrance from the various batteries, and the anchorage inside is protected by the guns that line the shore. The Goulet are the fort of St. Matthew and the lighthouse; the port, or harbour of Brest, being formed at the mouth of the Goulet; it is narrow, but of considerable depth, and the mouth of the harbour can be closed by a boom. It is defended by several tiers of batteries rising from the shore. Near the entrance to the harbour is the old castle, which was built by the Dukes of Brittany, which was transformed

into a fortification by Vauban in 1688; while there is at the water's edge a great battery and every provision for serving it with ammunition. In addition to all these defences, the town is protected by numerous batteries mounting several hundred pieces of cannon. On the summit of the hill, behind it, is the powder-magazine, where the ships that enter the port deposit their powder. The dockyard, which is one of the most wonderful sights in Europe, is situated on both sides of a narrow but deep inlet of the sea. It contains, of course, the building-slips, dry docks, sail-houses, ropewalks, cannon foundry, sailors' barracks, and the convict station, as well as timber-yards, boat-sheds, and building-yards. The victualling-office is provided with a great series of ovens, a slaughter-house, a granary, &c.; and so perfect was its arrangement even so long ago as 1803 that when the French and Spanish ships lay in Brest 50,000 rations were supplied daily. The town has also a good naval library, a cabinet of natural history, a botanical garden, a marine observatory, and several schools and colleges. Although Brest has been said to occupy a Roman site, no mention of it occurs in history till the year 1240, at which period its castle was ceded to John, first Duke of

Brittany. This castle had a small town in its vicinity, and was several times besieged by the English, French, and Spaniards. Cardinal Richelieu was the first to take advantage of the natural capabilities of the port for a naval station, and in 1631 commenced the fortifications, which were improved and extended by Vauban.

The military port may be viewed either from the Imperial Bridge or from the ancient Belvedere of Point du Jour. From the Imperial Bridge facing the south the prospect is very extensive, including the neighbouring coasts, the islands of the Channel, and that part of the roads in which the greater portion of the vessels of war are anchored. To the left stands out the imposing mass of the old "Chateau"—that "ancient sentinel of a former age;" and at its feet may be seen successively the semaphore, the formidable battery of Parc-au-Duc, an important dépôt for oil, the mast-making yards, the machinery for masting vessels, and that part of the Tourville Quay which has recently been annexed to the arsenal. From the side of Recouvrance may be distinguished the batteries of Parc-de-la-Pointe, rising in terraces, and those of Fer-a-Cheval, as well as those dependencies of the artillery which cover the summits.

On a level with the quays stand the various establishments of the dockyard, already referred to, and a portion of the ancient quay of Jean Bart, the annexation of which to the military port is also a recent work. Turning to the north, the visitor will be struck with the panorama that lies before him, suggestive as it is of the slow but unyielding energy with which these vast works have been carried out, embracing as they do a long line of workshops, forges, barracks, factories, storehouses, dockyards, and fortifications illustrative of the strength of a great nation, eager to vindicate its position either by land or sea. On the side towards Brest may be seen the old Dockyard of Tioulan and the line of edifices by which it is flanked; towards the north the imposing front of the general magazine and those buildings devoted to sails, rigging, and the other details of naval architecture. The new hospital and the old bagnio occupy the heights, and on a still more elevated spot stand the fine marine quarters amidst which rises the central observatory, emerging from an alley of trees. Then the eye wanders to the elegant dome of the naval school, and the massive tower of the parish Church of St. Louis.



THE MILITARY PORT OF BREST.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE general opinion at the clubs and in the House is that the Enfranchisement Bill and the Bill for the Redistribution of Seats will be fused into one bill; and there is an opinion, growing stronger every hour, that there will be a compromise. But, as far as I can judge, the only compromise possible is that the Conservatives shall consent to the £7 qualification in boroughs on condition that the Government will consent to raise the £14 rental qualification in counties, as proposed in the bill, to £20; and to such a compromise I think the Government would, after some coquetry and show of hesitation, consent. But will the Conservatives agree to such an arrangement? At present they have made no sign. The subject has been much discussed by them, and I hear that there is great difference of opinion amongst them—the moderates inclining to the suggested arrangement; the sturdy old Tories, with General Peel at their head, expressing their determination to fight to the last against all reform. But if there be a division, as there certainly is, the compromise suggested may be carried out in spite of the General and his band of obstructives. Indeed, with only some score or so of Conservatives or Adullamites, this arrangement would be carried. And I believe that most of the men of the cave would vote for such a proposition. The *Times*, the organ of the Adullamites, wants an £8 qualification in boroughs coupled with a £14 in counties; but this would be a compromise all on one side, and I cannot believe that the Government will listen for a moment to such a proposition. The Radicals have supported the Government loyally and steadfastly, and it would be not only ingratitude, but bad policy, to sacrifice the gentlemen below the gangway to gain Conservative support. Lord Palmerston often did this; but the member for South Lancashire must not think of it, or he may, possibly, never be returned for South Lancashire again.

Why should the Government sacrifice their Radical supporters to gain Tory votes? It has nothing to fear from the Conservatives. True, it may be left in a minority, and have to resign; but inevitably it must come in again, either with or without a dissolution, as the Conservatives well know. And here, by-the-way, I may say that this knowledge will, I think, very much incline the Conservative leaders to listen to reason. What can we gain (they will argue) by holding out? We cannot hope for office until this Reform question shall get itself settled and out of the way; whilst, on the other hand, if this obstruction be removed, we may, fortune favouring, in a few years find an opening into Downing-street again. On the whole, I cannot help thinking that a sufficient number of Conservatives will consent to the arrangement which I have mentioned, and which is now being so freely discussed.

The Redistribution of Seats Bill will, I think, be carried. Of course, there is a good deal of cavilling about it. The old charges of manoeuvring and jobbery to serve Whig influence are freely tossed about and will be hurled at the Government from the Conservative benches when the bill gets into Committee. Tavistock is on every Conservative's lips, as I remember it was in 1832. The line has been drawn so as just to include Tavistock, is one allegation. This is one of the grave charges, and there are many more; but, as far as I can see, there are no grounds for these charges, and I think the bill will pass. I do not admire the bill. This principle of grouping a number of decayed or decaying old towns around another decayed or decaying old town is bad. Why, for example, should those rotten, dirty, corrupt, dead-alive old towns Harwich and Maldon have the privilege of returning a member, whilst Chelmsford, the county town, and in every way a more important place, is passed over? The answer is, I know, that Maldon and Harwich have always sent members to Parliament, whilst Chelmsford never has, and it is the principle of the bill not to disfranchise any place. Well, that may satisfy those who are satisfied with the principle of the bill; but I venture to think that the principle which sanctions such anomalies—and there are many of them—is a bad principle. However, I suppose we must be satisfied. This, too, is a compromise, necessary, I suppose, because the Government could not hope to carry anything better.

Rumours are rife that Mr. Speaker certainly will retire soon. He is better; but he cannot walk into the House in state, but has to be wheeled in the back way, and, further, is obliged to put the questions to the House in a sitting posture. Of course, there is much talk and speculation as to who will succeed to the chair. Walpole is the Conservatives' man, and at one time it was whispered about that the Whigs would generously allow him to be elected; but this is quite absurd. The speakership of the House of Commons is a splendid prize, and we may be quite sure that it will be given to a member of the strongest party. Mr. Bouverie, Mr. Henry Austin Bruce, and Mr. Cardwell are each talked of. Of these, Mr. Bouverie is the best qualified for the post; indeed, there is no man in the House so well qualified; but if Mr. Cardwell wants it, I should say he will get it, and he would make a reasonably good Speaker.

I can most cordially recommend my readers to go and see a picture now exhibiting at Mr. M'Lean's gallery in the Haymarket. It is a view in the Rocky Mountains, painted by Bierstadt, the painter who accompanied General Lander on the survey ordered by the United States Government in 1858 for the purpose of discovering a route across the continent to California. Apart from its interest as a picture of the mountainous region which figures so often in the history and the romance of the New World, it has extraordinary merit as a work of art. When I say that it is like a very good Leader, I think it will be admitted that it holds high rank in landscape-painting. The point chosen for the foreground of the picture is about halfway across a semicircle of luxuriant sward left where the grove of cotton-wood trees retires from the banks of the Rio Colorado, whose glassy waters stretch across the picture in the middle distance. Beyond towers the majestic and seemingly inaccessible peak of Mount Lander, clothed in perpetual snows, its deep chasms forming channels for the vast glaciers that move forward irresistibly, as if threatening to bury the plain in their deadly embraces, but—like dangers which vanish as they approach nearer—melting, as they descend, into a thousand tumbling torrents, that flash down the rugged sides and plunge in sheets of foam into the placid Colorado. The painter tells all this admirably in his picture. The foreground lies in the shadow of the lofty range; but in the mid-distance a stream of sunlight, launched through some break in the rocky barrier, pours across the scene, irradiates the foaming cascade and the mountain-side; and brings out in forcible relief, as it scatters its gold over the green-sward behind them, the sombre masses of forest trees. An Indian encampment gives life and character to the view. Spoils of fishing and the chase lie heaped in front; beyond them a hunter relates to an admiring group how he slew "the grizzly" which he brings in as a trophy. The squaws are engaged in cooking the evening meal; and the children, strapped to their boards, are propped against the wigwams out of mischief's way, with a dog for nurse. A lad, with ready bow, meditates a raid upon the marmots that are to be seen friking in the right-hand corner of the canvas. Further off the elders of the tribe bask in the rays of the setting sun, and the mustangs crop the rich herbage. Bierstadt, the artist who has painted this fine work, is a Düsseldorf man, the son of a soldier who served under the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsula. He studied at Düsseldorf several years, joining, on the completion of his studies, his family, which had settled in Massachusetts.

Mr. Kennedy, the popular Scottish vocalist, has last week and this been giving a series of farewell entertainments in the Store-street Hall and the Hanover-square Rooms, previous to his departure for America. I have had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Kennedy at these entertainments again, and like his performances even better than ever. His singing of "The Land o' the Leal," "Auld Robin Gray," "Get up and bar the door, O!" "Will ye no come back again?" "Allister M'Allister," "Duncan Gray," "Young Lochinvar," "Of a' the airts," and other well-known songs, was admirable. Mr. Kennedy also recited the whole of "Tam o' Shanter" in a most effective manner, changing his style to the various moods of that remarkable poem in a way which evidently both pleased and interested his numerous audience. I hope this talented gentleman—who, by-the-by, is accompanied on the piano in an exceedingly tasteful manner by his daughter—will have every reason to be satisfied with his Transatlantic tour.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

From time to time in the *Shilling Magazine* I have noticed with words of admiration some musical articles. They appear to have attracted the attention of a singularly apprehensive and accomplished writer in the *Contemporary Review*. A notice of "Mozart's Life and Letters" in the same review (first number) was evidently by the same felicitous pen as the delightful article "Schubert and Chopin" in the present number. This article is a fine example of criticism, at once comprehensive and cautious, and everywhere coloured with rare feeling. It happens to be peculiarly interesting to me to read such warm praise of the "Erl-King" of Schubert. Many years ago, when my taste was half formed and my opportunities few, I took a fancy to the Erl-King, from seeing it in a shop window. Musical people laughed at me; it was not considered "proper," I found, to admire Schubert; but, proper or not, I did admire him, and can remember to this day every note of the composition. Since then opinion has been taking more than one turn, and people do not talk of Schubert as some of my clever friends did in those old times. The other contents of the present number of the *Contemporary* are very good. The reviews are particularly deserving of praise.

I have not received *Temple Bar* for a month or two past.

In *Macmillan* there is a careful, though not novel, article on the "Education of Englishwomen in the Sixteenth Century," and a very noticeable one entitled "Can't and Counter-can't." The two stories are, of course, continued. Mrs. Norton's is, perhaps, slightly thin in texture, though always pleasant; while Mr. Blackmore's "Craddock Nowell" suggests that the writer gets up too much steam. There is a very interesting letter from Lady Duff Gordon, "On the Nile."

The illustrations in the *Shilling Magazine* are exceptionally good this month. Mr. William Stigant has a poem, to which Mr. Edward Hughes furnishes the picture; and there are some other pleasant verses in the number—which I mention because this magazine is usually unfortunate with its poetry. If novelists would write their stories with the same simplicity as that shown by the author of "The Desecrated Chancel" (who is anonymous), novels would be pleasant reading; but people won't write with simplicity—they stretch, and strain, and struggle, and splash about the paper as if their one object was to shew what tricks can be played with language.

The present number of the *Argosy* completes the first volume—the "Midsummer Volume," as the title-page calls it. The best thing in the number is "A Spring Chanson," by Alexander Smith. Mr. Anthony Trollope has a very capital Irish story sketch, entitled "Father Giles of Ballymoy;" and Arminius Vambéry has some more to say about the Desert. I cannot say that I think in the present number of "Griffith Gaunt" Mr. Charles Reade is natural—certainly he is not realistic; but if you once consent to regard the story as a romance, told by a splendid, fantastic writer who sees everything in the light cast by women's eyes, you find "Griffith Gaunt" delightful. It is, however, almost as much a romance as the "Arabian Nights." The wonderful thing about it is the young-heartedness of the author. The illustrations are curiously charming, and the title-page is, I think, the prettiest I have seen for a long while.

I have received the first number of a new competitor for public favour, *Aunt Judy's Magazine*, edited by Mrs. Alfred Gatty, and published by Bell and Daldy. It has reached my hands too late, however, for me to be able to say more than that it is neatly got up and contains several contributions from the pen of the editor, as well as from those of other well-known writers. The new magazine also contains illustrations from the pencils of Wehnert, Pasquier, Morton, and Wolf.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

On Saturday a new drama was brought out at the PRINCE OF WALES'S. "£100,000" is an original piece; is neither taken nor suggested by a French play or an English novel, and is the work of that popular comic writer Mr. H. J. Byron. The first act of the piece introduces us to the parlour behind the shop of Mr. Joe Barlow, who is a chandler dwelling in the Borough. Mr. Joe Barlow (Mr. Ray) is an honest and industrious tradesman, who, despite the remonstrances of his wife, Mrs. Barlow (Miss Larkin), insists on investing his savings in "speculations." A lodger in the house, one Mr. Gerald Goodwin (Mr. Sydney Bancroft), is unable to pay his rent, but Barlow is unwilling to press him, because he sees that Goodwin, though poor, is a gentleman, and that his niece Alice (Miss Marie Wilton) has fixed her affections on him, a fact which causes great irritation to a lively stable keeper, of the name of Pennythorne (Mr. J. Clarke), a vulgar, purse-proud cad, who is in love with the dowry left to Alice by her late father. Mr. Fluker (Mr. Hare), a restless lawyer, arrives with the news that, by the sudden death of an uncle in India, Gerald Goodwin is the heir to a fortune of £100,000; and the curtain falls on Goodwin's reception of the congratulations of all who know him, save and except Alice, who feels that his new-found prospects will separate him from her. The second act shows Mr. Goodwin's gorgeously-furnished chambers, in St. James's. Goodwin has forgotten his old love, or, if not forgotten her, thinks of her with remorse, and not with love. He is surrounded by speculators, among whom Major Blackshaw (Mr. Dewar) and Charker (Mr. Trafford) are the most prominent. Alice, accompanied by her uncle, visits the apartments, for she wishes to see the luxury by which her faithless lover is surrounded. The irrepressible Mr. Fluker arrives with the news that so far from Goodwin's uncle being dead he is alive, and has contracted a second marriage. Goodwin is ruined; his fair-weather friends fall from him; and, in the moment of his agony and shame, the girl he has deserted proffers him the whole of her small fortune. Her uncle is then forced to avow that not only his own savings but her dowry has been lost in inconsiderate speculations. In the third act we are again taken to the chandler's back-parlour. The brokers are in possession of Mr. Barlow's furniture and effects, and nothing can save the old man and woman from ruin but Alice's marriage with Pennythorne. She devotes herself for their sake, and accepts the little miscreant, who, when he hears that her fortune is gone, "declares off" and turns abusive. But retributive justice, so lamentably slow and rare in real life, but so swift and certain on the stage, overtakes him, even in the very moment of his vituperation. His own financial state borders on bankruptcy, and he is carried off to Curstow-street by a bailiff who wears a pair of the most violent plaid trousers that ever did injustice to probability. Goodwin meets with a better fate than he deserves. His uncle's wife elopes with Mr. Charker, the fraudulent speculator, the abandoned husband takes his neglected nephew into his favour, and Alice enjoys to the full the feminine luxury of forgiveness, and receives the selfish truant to her love again.

The plot, even from the slight sketch here given of it, is interesting, and the incidents arise from it in rapid succession. The dialogue is smart and epigrammatic, and was highly enjoyed by that "first night's" audience, whose most marked peculiarities seem to be the pursuit of literature, and art, and mutual acquaintance. That excellent actor, Mr. Ray, has a part exactly suited to his powers, and both his pathos and his fun "told." Mr. Sydney Bancroft was a most gentlemanly young hero; and Mr. Dewar a Major most portentously commonplace. Mr. Clarke made another of his "hits" as the lively stable keeper, Pennythorne—a more thorough-paced "welcher" never hounded a horse or "sold" his employer. Mr. Hare's personation of the lawyer, Fluker, surprised the audience in the same manner as his personation of the used-up old nobleman in "Society." It was a remarkable performance—natural, original, and highly humorous. Mr. Montgomery was very funny as a gentleman's gentleman. Miss Marie Wilton played the heroine with great correctness, delicacy, and suggestive pathos; and Miss Larkin evinced equal command over the serious or the humorous sensibilities of her audience. After the two first acts, as well as at the fall of the green curtain, everybody was called for, including Mr. Byron, and the success of the new drama became an established fact.

Monsieur Victorien Sardou's play of "La Famille Benoit" n'as

been translated by Mr. Benjamin Webster, jun., and brought out at the ADELPHI. With some few good bits excepted, it is not a good piece, and is not likely to take a strong hold on public favour. The incidents are too unreal and too obviously brought about for the sake of dramatic effect; even in the best, or, as I should say, the most exciting scenes, the interest is disagreeable. Conjugal infidelity, though palliated by personal innocence and a passion for the gaming-table, is an unpleasant theme for contemplation for an hour and a half, be the shocks evolved from it ever so electro-galvanic. If the boards of our English theatres must be kept as sacred ground for the pens of Frenchmen, let us see translations of the best dramatic works of France; there are plenty of them that are elevating and ennobling; and let us no longer put up with the fifteenth-rate ephemeral popularities that delight demi-monde and demi-gandian. A man of M. Sardou's talent should be ashamed of such a production as "La Famille Benoit," and the public of Paris should be ashamed (imagine the public of Paris being ashamed!) of its popularity. The "Fast Family" is very well acted, and is handsomely mounted with French furniture.

At the NEW ROYALTY a new comedietta, called "The 24th George II. Cap. 23," has been produced, in which Miss Oliver, Miss Leigh Murray, Miss Bourke, Mr. Fitzjames, Mr. Joseph Robins, and Mr. Charles Harcourt play very agreeably. The plot of the piece turns on the difference between the "Old Style and the New," or the method of counting dates by the Julian and the Gregorian calendar, a very original subject on which to hinge a dramatic story, and certainly not one adapted from the French. The author of the comedietta, which is very smartly written, is Mr. J. P. Wooler. The management of the little "Royalty" is very spirited and enterprising, and have added to the attractions of the extravaganza of "Ulf the Minstrel" and the comedietta above mentioned a new farce entitled "Found in a Four-Wheeler."

MR. DOULTON AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

THE following letter has been addressed to the chairman of the meeting held at Lambeth, at which a resolution was passed calling upon Mr. Doulton to resign his seat:—

House of Commons, May 4, 1866.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your favour acquainting me with a resolution passed at a public meeting at the Horns, on Tuesday last, and requesting me to receive a deputation urging me to resign my seat.

It will afford me at all times pleasure to receive you personally, but as I observe on the deputation the names of two speakers who, if the report in the journals are correct, lavished upon me a torrent of personal abuse, I am disinclined to permit the repetition of such insults in my own house, and must therefore decline to receive the deputation as at present constituted.

I have the less hesitation in refusing the proffered visit, as, with the exception of yourself and one other elector, there was no one who took an active part in the proceedings to whom I am indebted for support.

The resolution you inclose is based upon two assumptions. First, that by voting for Lord Grosvenor's amendment I abandoned the principles on which I obtained my seat; and the other, that the meeting at the Horns represented the general feeling of my constituents. I deny that there is a vestige of foundation for either of these assumptions. My opinions on Reform are what they were, and until lately appeared to be shared by other Reformers who have since abandoned the course which I believe to be a sound and straightforward one. I feel no inclination to follow in their steps by departing from it, either by reason of the pressure exercised by her Majesty's Government or the menaces and intimidation of a small section of my own constituency.

I have always attached a high value to the honour of representing an important borough in the House of Commons; but that value is consistent only with the preservation of one's own self-respect, which I should lose were I deprived of the exercise of my own independent judgment on questions submitted to the House. I have, moreover, even been taught that the representatives of Lambeth best discharged their duty to their constituents by the preservation of their own independence and freedom from party ties; and it is a new sensation to be told that the member for Lambeth is bound to follow the indications of the Treasury whip. As to resigning my seat at the requisition of a meeting composed, as is said, of about one hundred electors, 500 non-electors, and a band of migratory political malcontents, including a large proportion of the staff of the *Morning Star*, professing to represent a borough of 27,000 electors and a population of a quarter of a million, may pass for a pleasantry, but will not allow of a moment's serious consideration.

Feeling tolerably sure of retaining the confidence of my constituents, I see neither rhyme nor reason in submitting to so preposterous a request; but if the deputation are prepared to justify their own opinions by backing them with their money, I am ready, on receipt of a cheque for the electioneering expenses to which I shall be put in complying with their demand (say £4000, as the contest is to be a sharp one), at once to ask her Majesty's Government for the stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds.—Yours faithfully, John Richardson, Esq. FRED. DOULTON.

THE REFORM BILL.—At the weekly meeting of the London Working Men's Association held, on Wednesday evening, at the office of the association, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, the secretary read letters from Earl Russell and Mr. Gladstone in relation to the lodger and the disfranchising clauses of the Reform Bill and as to the extension of the hours of polling. The letter of Mr. Gladstone expressed the great regret of the hon. gentleman that the pressure of business would prevent him meeting a deputation on the above subjects; but that if the meeting of the association would be at the trouble of placing the views of that body upon the three questions named in writing and forward them to him they should receive his careful consideration. A resolution was adopted thanking Mr. Gladstone for his courteous letter and instructing the secretary to comply with the request contained therein. The association desire that the vote of the lodger should be made simply dependent upon the payment of £10 per annum rent, with the necessary qualification as to residence, the total withdrawal of the sixteenth or disfranchising clause of the bill, and an extension of the hours of polling.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE COUNT VON BISMARCK.—An attempt upon the life of Count von Bismarck was made at five o'clock on Monday evening, as the Count was returning on foot along the Unter den Linden, after having had an audience of the King. Upon reaching the Schadow Strasse he was fired at from behind by a man who discharged two barrels of a revolver at him. Both shots, however, missed the Count, who immediately turned and seized the man. In the struggle which ensued between them the assassin fired three more shots from his revolver. Count Bismarck remained unhurt, with the exception of a slight contusion. His clothes were burned by the nearness of the three last discharges. The perpetrator of the attempted assassination, who was immediately arrested by the police, is a man thirty-two years of age, a step-son of the well-known political refugee, Carl Blind, who has since committed suicide. It appears that he came from Hohenheim, in Wirtemberg, with the deliberate intention of assassinating Count von Bismarck. The attempt upon the life of Count Bismarck has produced exactly the result which might have been anticipated. It has awakened a feeling of enthusiasm for the unpopular Minister which will stand him in good service in this critical stage of his policy.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL.—This bill extends to England and Ireland, but not to Scotland. It enacts that it is to be murder of the first degree (1) where a person murders another with express malice aforethought against the person murdered or any other person, such malice being found by the jury as matter of fact; (2) where a person murders another with a view to, and in or immediately before or after, the commission by such person of any of the following felonies, or for the purpose of thereby enabling himself or any other person to commit any of the following felonies—viz., rape, burglary, robbery, piracy, or unlawfully and maliciously setting fire to any dwelling-house, a person being therein; (3) where a person murders another in the act of escape, or for the purpose of thereby enabling himself or any other person to escape from or avoid lawful arrest or detainer, immediately after committing or attempting to commit murder or any of these felonies; (4) where a person murders a constable or any other peace officer acting in the discharge of his duty. Clauses 6 to 8 provide that, on conviction for murder of the first degree, judgment of death may be pronounced in open court, and the offender shall suffer death as a felon; or the Court may order judgment of death to be entered on record, and this shall have the like effect as if judgment of death had been pronounced in open court but execution thereof had been respited. All murders not of the first degree are of the second degree; the punishment of the latter to be penal servitude for life or for not less than seven years. The indictment is to charge murder of the first degree or to charge murder of the second degree. It is made felony bodily harm during his birth or within seven days thereafter; and it is not to be necessary to prove that the child was completely born alive. On an indictment for child-murder the accused cannot be found guilty of concealment of birth. Executions are to be within the walls of the prison. The sheriff or his deputy, the governor or chief officer of the prison or his deputy, the chaplain or an officiating minister attached to the prison, the surgeon or chief medical officer of the prison, and such other officers of the prison as the sheriff requires, shall be present at the execution; and any justice of the peace having jurisdiction, and such persons as it seems proper to the sheriff or visiting justices proper to admit, may also be present at the execution. The surgeon's certificate of the death, a certificate from the other above-named officials, and a duplicate of the coroner's inquisition on the body, are to be sent to the Secretary of State, and copies are to be exhibited at the prison entrance for a certain number of hours. The body is to be buried within the walls of the prison.

FINE ARTS.

THE NINETY-EIGHTH EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

THE impression which a first visit to the Academy leaves this year is undoubtedly one of disappointment. So many of the popular favourites are absent or are only slightly represented that we are perhaps apt to undervalue the evidence which its walls afford of the rapidly-rising genius of comparatively unknown men and the marked improvement discernible among our younger artists. But, even if we give the fullest weight to these considerations, it is impossible to deny that this year's exhibition is below the average.

According to our usual custom, we will pass in review the pictures hung in each room in succession, commencing, as does the catalogue, with the East Room.

The principal picture in this room—perhaps in the whole exhibition—is Mr. MacIise's large study for his Westminster fresco, "Here Nelson Fell" (47). With all his skill, the artist has failed to overcome the difficulties inseparable from the long, low form of the space to be covered. The deck of a man-of-war does not admit of the artifices of composition by which he was enabled to render the companion picture of Waterloo so effective in despite of adverse conditions. The effect is scattered, and the group of which the fallen Admiral is the centre lies too far to the right of the spectator, and seems rather an incident in the panorama than the chief subject of the picture. Of the drawing of the figures of seamen, who in vigorous and varied attitudes crowd the canvas, we cannot speak too highly; but we cannot help noticing that Mr. MacIise has fallen into the fault observable in his "Waterloo"—that of placing more figures on certain areas than could possibly find room to stand on them, the effect being that they look less like human beings than figures cut out of card. Another defect which detracts from the reality of the picture is the scrupulous cleanliness and neatness of the figures, as well as of the deck. There are no grimed, sweating, gory tars to bring the actualities of battle before us; and the timbers of the vessel, splintered though they be, are as clean as if they had been but a few minutes since scoured and holystoned. Mr. MacIise has been a little too sparing of bloodshed, which, though it may not be pleasant, is an essential in a battle-piece; and, where he has painted it, has made it rather resemble the best sealing-wax than the real fluid. It is to be regretted, too, that, as this is a national and historical picture, the likeness of Nelson is not happier.

Sir Edwin Landseer's "Mare and Foal—Indian Tent, &c." (92), is finely drawn, though somewhat thinly, if not feebly, coloured. To be seen properly it should be viewed from a distance, which, owing to the crowding, the spectator will not be able to avail himself of for judging the effect. It appears to be the general belief that the nearer one's nose is to a canvas the better one can see it; and we would suggest to the authorities that the only way to conquer this impression is to sacrifice a little space and place a barrier some 2 ft. in front of the pictures. If it did nothing else it would save paintings from injury; we saw on our first visit two instances of slight damage done to pictures owing to the too close proximity of careless spectators. It would be a great advantage if the critic, standing at a reasonable distance, could be enabled to study the works on the walls instead of learning, as is now the case, to what absurdities the present fashion in bonnets has run, or how much of a lady's own hair and how much of a horse's enter into the composition of a chignon. Sir Edwin's second picture in this room is chiefly remarkable for its anachronisms. "Godiva" (109) is seated on a pony, held by an aged attendant in the costume of a duenna, who is rather unnecessarily closing her eyes, while one of the Coventry spires is introduced in the background and a King Charles spaniel in front. Godiva's costume, however, is strictly correct, more so, perhaps, than the drawing of her figure.

The "Hagar and Ishmael" (6) of Mr. Goodall, if it be possibly a little defective in local truth, is a remarkable and excellent work. There are few, indeed, of our painters who could draw such admirable figures as these. The expression, too, is as forcible as the drawing is correct, and the interest is so strongly upheld that, although the mother and her son occupy comparatively only a small portion of the canvas, there is no feeling that there is anything "to let" in the picture. Another picture with which little if any fault can be found is Mr. Calderon's "Her Most High, Noble, and Puissant Grace" (24), a picture which we reckon among the very best in the whole exhibition. The guileless face of the baby Duchess as she heads the procession of her retinue and sweeps past her bowing servants is charming; and there is a fine touch of nature in making a lad, almost her Grace's own age, the only one among the spectators who does not do low reverence. Mr. Phillip has never painted anything better than "A Chat round the Braser" (132); the expressions on the faces of the female listeners are varied with a subtlety that is unsurpassable, and the padre's face is full of roguish humour, while, as might be expected, the whole work is a perfect bouquet of splendidly-arranged and harmonised colour.

Mr. Poole's "Cave of Belarius" (82) is a clever picture, in his best style. It is to be regretted that the figure of Imogen is not more graceful in pose. Mr. Frith's "Widow Wadman and Uncle Toby" (73) is far better than anything of his that has been exhibited for some time past; but it is impossible to divest one's-self entirely of the idea that it is a continuation of Leslie's well-known painting of the same subject, after the two figures have got up. Mr. Ward is more gaudy and inharmonious in colour than usual in his "Amy Robarts and Leicester" (64). Mr. O'Neill's "Last Moments of Raffaele" (165) is a fine composition; but we could have wished that the head of the dying painter, while retaining the feminine character, had been less like a woman's. There is great feeling in the tone of the picture, and a truthful calm about the view from the open window, with the last ray of daylight lingering on one small building that crowns the distant hill.

Mr. Armitage maintains his deserved reputation for sound drawing in his admirable "Remorse of Judas" (10). The expressions of the various faces are capitally rendered—especially that of the foremost priest, full of a natural, national surprise that one of his countrymen should refuse money that he had once got possession of. A picture full of pleasing sentiment, and truly delicious in colour, is Mr. Leighton's "Painter's Honeymoon" (4), a young artist working at his drawing-board with one hand, while with the other he clasps the white fingers of his bride, who hangs fondly over his work.

It is worth while to compare Mr. Leighton's picture with a similar work by Mr. F. Pickersgill which hangs near it, entitled "The Lovers" (12), in which conventionality, bad drawing, and feeble colouring combine to convince us that it would never have cumbered the walls, to the exclusion of better pictures, but for the R. A. after its painter's name. It is, perhaps, not out of place to observe here that the mediocre character of the exhibition is the less excusable because (as those whose duty—and pleasure—have taken them to the studios know) excellent pictures have been rejected by the hanging committee.

Mr. F. D. Hardy, who has deservedly achieved a reputation that places his pictures among those to be looked for when the Academy opens, is represented in this room by a very natural little scene, "The Threatened Deluge" (79), a group of urchins shrinking with coquettish timidity from the pail of water which a servant is throwing over the floor for scrubbing purposes. The painting of the water is curiously real, and the figures are admirably studied. Mr. Hook once more brings the briny atmosphere of the seacoast into the crowded rooms of the Academy. "Landing Salmon" (99) is another of those idyls, redolent of the fresh open air and the pellucid sea, by which his name has been made famous. Nothing can be more true than the quiet heave of the glittering tide as it runs up between the ledges of rock, nothing more honest than the painting of the distance or the rendering of the homely but picturesque figures. Equally fine is the "Washerwomen, Brittany" (148). It is as good as a week at the seaside to look at one of Mr. Hook's pictures! Mr. Lewis's diploma picture, "The Door of a Café in Cairo" (113), is marked by all his richness of colour and correctness of drawing, but it does not appear to be as highly finished as his works usually are. Mr. Horsley's "Going to

a Party" (122) is a repetition of his little girl in a new dress in last year's exhibition; but the subject is so charming that we will not complain of the iteration. Very delightful is the satisfied self-admiration of the little woman, whose appearance is creating quite a sensation as she passes the door of the room where her brothers are dressing. Mr. T. Faed exhibits an unaffected picture, appealing to the heart with a touch of homely nature, in "Ere care begins" (11), a cotter's wife about to suckle her bonny babe. It is a pity that this clever artist cannot cure himself of a tendency to blackness in his shadows. Mr. Watts's "Thetis" (23) is a nude study, drawn with a masterly hand, but its colouring is too obviously an imitation of that of the old masters as it appears when not only mellowed by age, but also toned by dirt. Mr. Hart's "Threes of Composition" (36) has no composition in it, and is almost as defective in drawing and colour. Mr. J. Faed has been very successful in his "What will happen?" (108), where only a door divides a concealed Cavalier from the grim Puritan who is searching for him. There is quiet humour in this, without exaggeration; but Mr. Faed has infused a shade too much fright into the Royalist's face. Mr. Topham's "Over the Bridge" (112), a child coming unexpectedly on the dead body of a gallant slain in a brawl, will do much to add to the rising repute of this young and meritorious artist. There is great open-air truth about the picture, and some remarkably good foreshortening of the dead body. The expression of the child's face is not quite easy to construe, as far as we can see; but the picture is not favourably hung, so we cannot speak decidedly. Mr. Sheil's "Gethsemane" (35) is feeble in idea, the only original point—that of representing an angel by Professor Pepper's ghost process—being the reverse of felicitous. Among the other pictures which fall under the head of figure-painting we may call attention to Mr. Weekes's two subjects (22, 85), a clever little study (133) by Mr. Goldie, an effective work (84) by Mr. Thomas, a pleasing sketch (61) by Mr. Bayes; and a spirited composition (59) by Mr. Ludovici, representing a couple of roistering musketeers, who, after seeking for a companion in all the cabarets of their acquaintance, at length find him snugly paying his addresses to a buxom handmaid in a wineshop. Mr. Dever attempts and by no means fails in a difficult effect, in his "Singing" (91); and Mr. Hunt shows some comic talent in his "Judge and Jury" (115); but we question whether the notion of painting boys burlesquing the grave affairs of life has not been worn threadbare by this time. Mr. Boughton's "Wayside Devotion" (107) is fine.

There is more than a sufficient display of portraiture this year. In this room we may note Mr. Leighton's artistic likeness of "Mrs. Guthrie" (7); a lifelike head of "Lieutenant-Colonel Strange" (30) by Mr. Boehm; and a pretty head, "Minnie" (158), by Mr. Dicksee. Mr. Sant has two of his delicious portraits of children, "Claude Montefiore" (129), and still more pleasing "The Children of Bingham Midway, Esq." (140), full of grace and excellent in colour. By the side of these Mr. Cope's "Lady and Children" (143) looks like paper-staining, hard and unreal. Mr. MacIise's "Dr. Quaine" (90), in like manner, will not bear comparison with Mr. Boxall's masterly head of "I. C. Moore, Esq." (54), which casts even the President's works somewhat into the shade. In landscape, the East Room boasts of the Stanfields of the exhibition, "Tintagel Castle" (58) and "Pic du Midi d'Ossau" (78), both painted with no evidence of a decline in the veteran artist's powers. Mr. Creswick's view of Mount St. Michael, which, very properly taking it for granted that it will be recognised by all frequenters of art-exhibitions, he christens "A Breezy Day on the English Coast" (128), is as true and vigorous as anything he ever painted. The figures are spiritedly put in by Mr. Ansell.

A picture of "Midsummer Moonlight—Dew Rising" (95) places Mr. Raven at once in the number of those for whose works we feel it a duty to keep a vigilant watch. A most difficult effect, and one that few if any artists have before attempted, has been rendered with complete fidelity and without exaggeration. It is one of the most original and effective studies of nature on the walls. Mr. O. J. Lewis exhibits two admirable little paintings, "The Brook" (62) and a "Berkshire Mill-Race" (98); and Mr. Mawley is represented by a similar number, "Autumn" (97), and "On the Thames" (13). These are works worthy of careful examination. Mr. Cooke has a somewhat mannered seapiece, "Rescue of a Crew by the North Deal Life-boat" (139); and Mr. Hayes has "Dutch Fishing-boats Returning" (167), painted with his accustomed felicity. Mr. Lee sends two of his cold, grey, crude renderings of English scenery. Mr. Edwards has a "Sunrise Before Rain" (1), which should be good, but cannot be judged fairly, as it is placed (where his pictures always are) over a doorway. The singular unanimity of the hanging committees in assigning him this position would make it almost worth Mr. Edwards's while to supply a pair of steps for the use of his admirers.

In conclusion, we must give a word of praise to Mr. McCallum (9), Mr. Jutsum (18), Mr. W. Field (38), Mr. Boddington (51), Mr. Rose (116), Mr. Gilbert (127), and Mr. Daubigny (150) for works that are good specimens of their respective modes. Mr. Mason's "Yarrow" (134) is pleasing, but seems to indicate a danger that the excessive praise he has met with may lead to the degeneration of his free handling into hasty slapdash. "Solitude" (65), by Mr. Hayward, is a noticeable work, showing an appreciation and study of nature combined with considerable power of rendering effects.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—The Registrar-General's weekly return of the health of the metropolis shows that the deaths from whooping-cough and scarlatina had considerably increased, while those from typhus and phthisis had decreased. The gross total shows an increase of fifty-three over the preceding week. One fatal case of English cholera, and sixteen deaths from diarrhoea are reported. The nominal rate of mortality per 1000 in London and some of the largest towns was as follows:—Bristol and Salford, 24; London and Dublin, 26; Hull, 27; Birmingham, 29; Manchester, 30; Edinburgh, 31; Sheffield, 33; Liverpool, 35; Glasgow, 38; Leeds, 39. There are four deaths reported from carriage accidents.

RAILWAY BRIDGES IN THE METROPOLIS.—The question of noise from passing trains, so much complained of, was raised the other day, in a conversation between Mr. Scholefield, the chairman of one of the House of Commons railway committees, and Mr. Hawkshaw. Mr. Scholefield desired to know whether the noise consequent on the passing of trains over the railway bridges in London could not in some way be obviated. Mr. Hawkshaw gave it as his opinion that this excessive noise was mainly due to the construction of these bridges entirely of iron. He stated that this construction was insisted on by all the parochial authorities; but that, if these bodies would allow the bridges to be made of brick or stone, as formerly, the noise caused by passing trains would be very little; and, indeed, with proper precautions, might be almost entirely obviated.

ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY.—The first general exhibition of the season took place on Wednesday, at the society's gardens, and attracted a numerous and fashionable company, including their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Mary, and Prince Teck. The fine weather of the past week had wonderfully increased the attractions of the gardens themselves, and the show of flowers for competition was remarkably good. Azaleas, roses, and pelargoniums were remarkable for number and beauty, and there was also a good show of heaths. Indeed, all classes of spring and summer flowers were well represented, and by their collection were grateful alike to sight and smell. The pleasure of the visitors was enhanced by the performances of the bands of the 1st and 2nd Life Guards, which alternately performed pieces of the latest and most popular music.

THE METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.—Upon the death of the late Admiral Fitzroy a correspondence took place between the Board of Trade and the Royal Society with respect to the above department, and the result was the appointment of a committee consisting of three gentlemen, Mr. F. Galton representing the Royal Society, Staff Commander Evans representing the Admiralty, and Mr. T. H. Farrer acting for the Board of Trade, to whom certain questions were referred; and on Tuesday their report was shewn in a bluebook of thirty-seven pages. The committee make numerous recommendations regarding the works and discussions of observations now in progress. They state that the maxima on which the department acts in foretelling weather have not been reduced into any clear or systematic form, and that the daily forecasts ought to be discontinued. The storm warnings have, however, been in a certain degree successful, and are highly prized as indicating the force of coming gales; but as regards the indication of the direction of those gales they have not been sufficiently correct to be of use. Above all, the committee think steps should be taken for establishing a full, constant, and accurate system of observing changes of weather in the British Isles; and that the system of telegraphing the weather from distant stations should be continued. The report contains numerous suggestions interesting to scientific men.

BANQUET AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

ON Saturday evening the President and Council of the Royal Academy gave their usual entertainment to a distinguished company at their rooms in Trafalgar-square. Among the company were the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Teck, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, the Lord Chancellor, Earl Russell, Sir George Grey, Lord Clarendon, Mr. E. Cardwell, the Marquis of Hartington, Lord De Grey and Ripon, the Lord Chamberlain, the Lord Steward, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the President of the Board of Trade, the First Commissioner of Works, the Bishop of Oxford, the Bishop of Peterborough, the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Brand, the Chairman of the Board of Customs, Lord Carnarvon, Lord Chelmsford, Sir H. Cairns, Mr. J. S. Coleridge, Mr. J. T. Caird, Mr. B. Cochrane, the Earl of Derby, Lord Elcho, Mr. C. Fortescue, Earl Grey, Earl Grosvenor, Mr. Goschen, Lord Houghton, Viscount Hardinge, Mr. Beresford Hope, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Mr. R. Lowe, the Lord Mayor, Lord John Manners, Sir R. Murchison, the Very Rev. Dean Milman, Sir S. Northcote, Professor Owen, &c. Sir Francis Grant, President of the Royal Academy, presided.

The first toast proposed by the President was, of course, "The Health of her Majesty the Queen;" the next toast, "The Health of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family."

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who was received with loud cheers, said,—I thank you most sincerely for the very kind manner in which you have proposed my health and that of the Princess of Wales and the other members of the Royal family. I also thank this company for the very kind manner in which they have received the compliment. I need hardly assure you that it is a source of sincere gratification to me to be present here a second time at the anniversary dinner of the Royal Academy, especially on this occasion, when I am enabled to have the opportunity of supporting you when you first take the chair as President of the Royal Academy. On this occasion I cannot forbear to refer to the memory of one whose loss we all most deeply deplore. I allude to your late President, Sir Charles Eastlake. You, the Royal Academicians, knew him so well, and knew how justly popular he was, that it would be superfluous in me to pass any eulogy on his name; but I cannot forbear paying my small tribute to his merits, considering him as an old friend of mine, having known him from my childhood. I now take the opportunity of thanking you, Sir Francis, for the very kind manner in which you have alluded to my name. I need not assure you that I shall always be ready to do my best to assist in promoting the welfare of art and science, and in that way following the bright example of the public career of my lamented father. I thank you for the manner in which you have referred to me as "a brother of the brush." I shall never be able to compete with you as a painter, but I hope, at the same time, I shall be able to enter the lists with you as a follower of foxhounds. The pictures in this exhibition certainly record the times in which we live, and the subjects of them in general lead us to congratulate ourselves that our country is at peace. There is one picture, however, to which I would beg to refer, and it is one of a distinguished countryman of yours, Mr. Ross, who is represented as a rifleman shooting for a prize. This, I think, is a picture of no ordinary interest, especially in connection with the volunteer movement. His Royal Highness again thanked the company for the distinguished manner in which he had been received, and resumed his seat amid loud cheers.

The next toast was "The Health of the Army, Navy, and Volunteers," to which

The Duke of Cambridge responded, followed by His Royal Highness Prince Alfred, who said,—I thank you for the way in which you have been kind enough to drink my health. I can assure you I am very proud to have my name associated with that of the Royal Navy. It is the first time I have ever been called upon to answer in the name of the profession to which I belong, and I am sure you will think that it has the same claims for respect and sympathy as it ever had. It gave me great pleasure to be able to accept the invitation of the President and Council of the Royal Academy to be present at this dinner, and also to have the opportunity of making myself acquainted with the many beautiful pictures exhibited here. Among the pictures connected with the profession to which I belong there is one which must have struck every one with the greatest admiration. I allude to the historical picture of "The Death of Nelson," by MacIise. There is also "The Burning of the Bombay," by Captain Brady. The first, represented here, and still more grandly in the House of Lords, is a scene that will ever be memorable in the history of England; and the second, though depicting a lamentable calamity, will also be remembered with a certain pride and satisfaction by all Englishmen, showing, as it does, that British sailors are made of the same stuff as they were at the Battle of Trafalgar. I beg to thank you again for the honour you have done me in drinking my health in connection with the Navy.

Lord Bury returned thanks for the volunteers. The President next gave the health of Prince Teck and Princess Mary of Cambridge, with the expression of an earnest hope that every happiness may attend their union.

Prince Teck briefly acknowledged the compliment. The memory of the late President, Sir Charles Eastlake, was next drunk in silence.

The toast of "The Guests" was responded to by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The President returned thanks on the part of the Academy, and next gave "The Health of her Majesty's Ministers."

Earl Russell having replied, The President next gave "The Health of the Earl of Derby," and referred to the recently-opened exhibition of national portraits.

The Earl of Derby, who was loudly cheered, referred at some length to his connection with the National Portrait Exhibition.

The President next gave "The Health of the Lord Mayor, and Prosperity to the City of London."

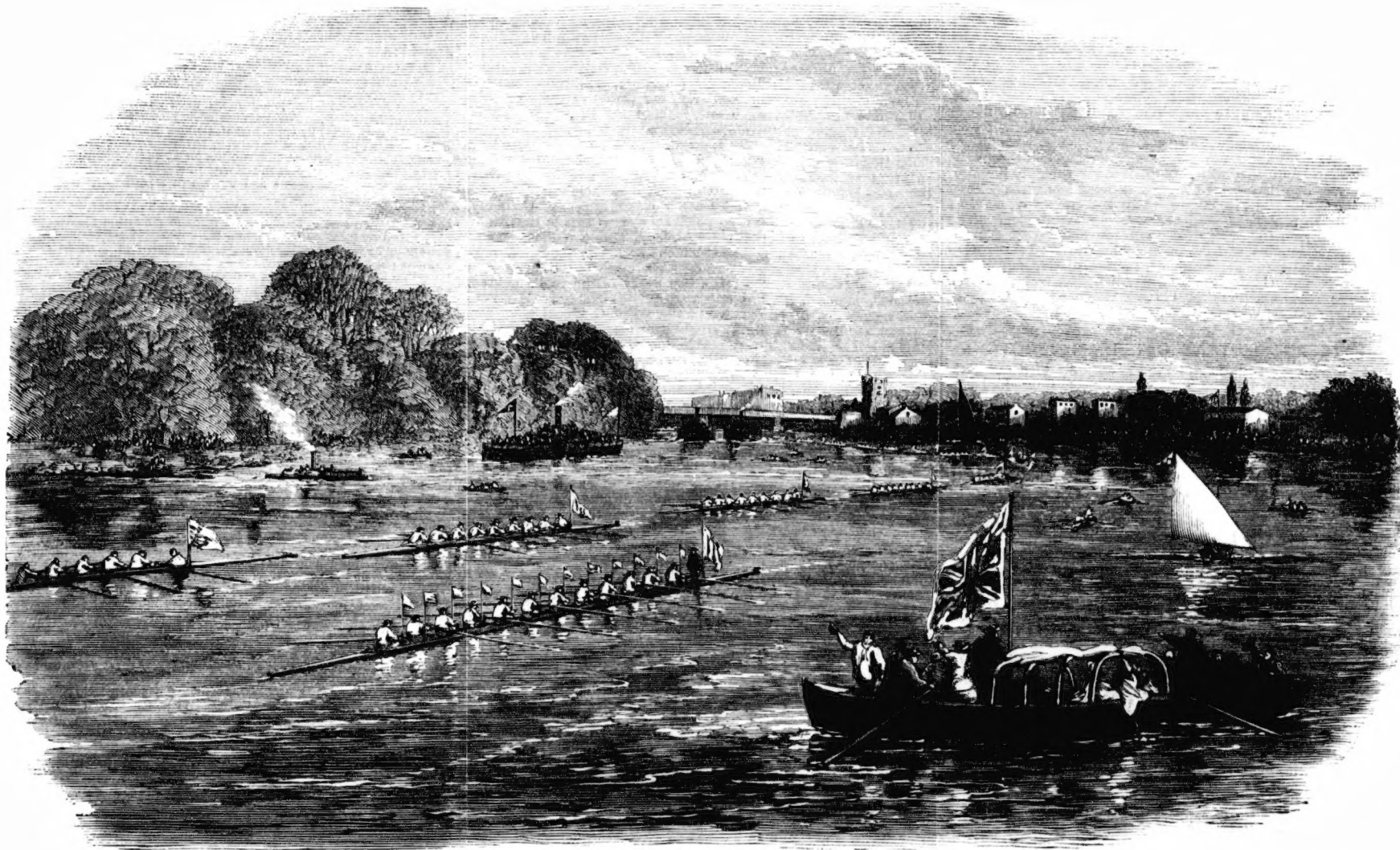
His Lordship briefly returned thanks, after which the distinguished assembly broke up.

ATTACK OF BANDITS ON THE MEXICAN DILIGENCE.

OUR Engraving represents one of those occurrences which are still so common in Mexico that they are an evidence of the powerlessness of any Government to ensure order and public safety in that lawless and dismembered country until the results of long years of misrule and tyranny are cured by the undeviating operation of just and regular tribunals, sternly determined to punish and to suppress without cruelty, but, at the same time, without weakness. In this case, unfortunately, the act of violence, which might on another occasion have scarcely demanded notice, has aroused more than usual attention because of the position of the persons who have been its victims. The diligence conveying the members of the special deputation from the King of the Belgians to the Emperor Maximilian has been attacked by brigands, one of the travellers has been killed, and two wounded. This carriage was followed by another, occupied by private travellers, amongst whom was Captain Turner, of the Federal navy, who was about to join his ship at Vera Cruz. They had almost mounted the steep road which leads to the station of Rio Frio when there suddenly appeared a dozen armed men, on foot, who ordered the first driver to stop, a demand which was answered by a discharge of firearms from the travellers, the effect of which is not known, but which was replied to by the bandits with fatal precision. M. Baron d'Huart, who was seated on the imperial, fell mortally wounded by a bullet in the forehead; General Foury was wounded in the head by broken glass from the windows; Major Altwyes was injured in three places, and M. Marechal received a wound in the arm. On the arrival of the second diligence Captain Turner and his companions attacked the brigands, who were already retiring at sight of the new reinforcement, especially as General Foury and his companions had descended and were charging them sword in hand. Immediately on receipt of a telegram conveying news of the affray the Emperor repaired to Rio Frio, where he arrived at five o'clock in the morning, returning to the capital at two o'clock in the afternoon.



ATTACK BY BANDITS ON THE DILIGENCE BETWEEN MEXICO CITY AND VERA CRUZ.



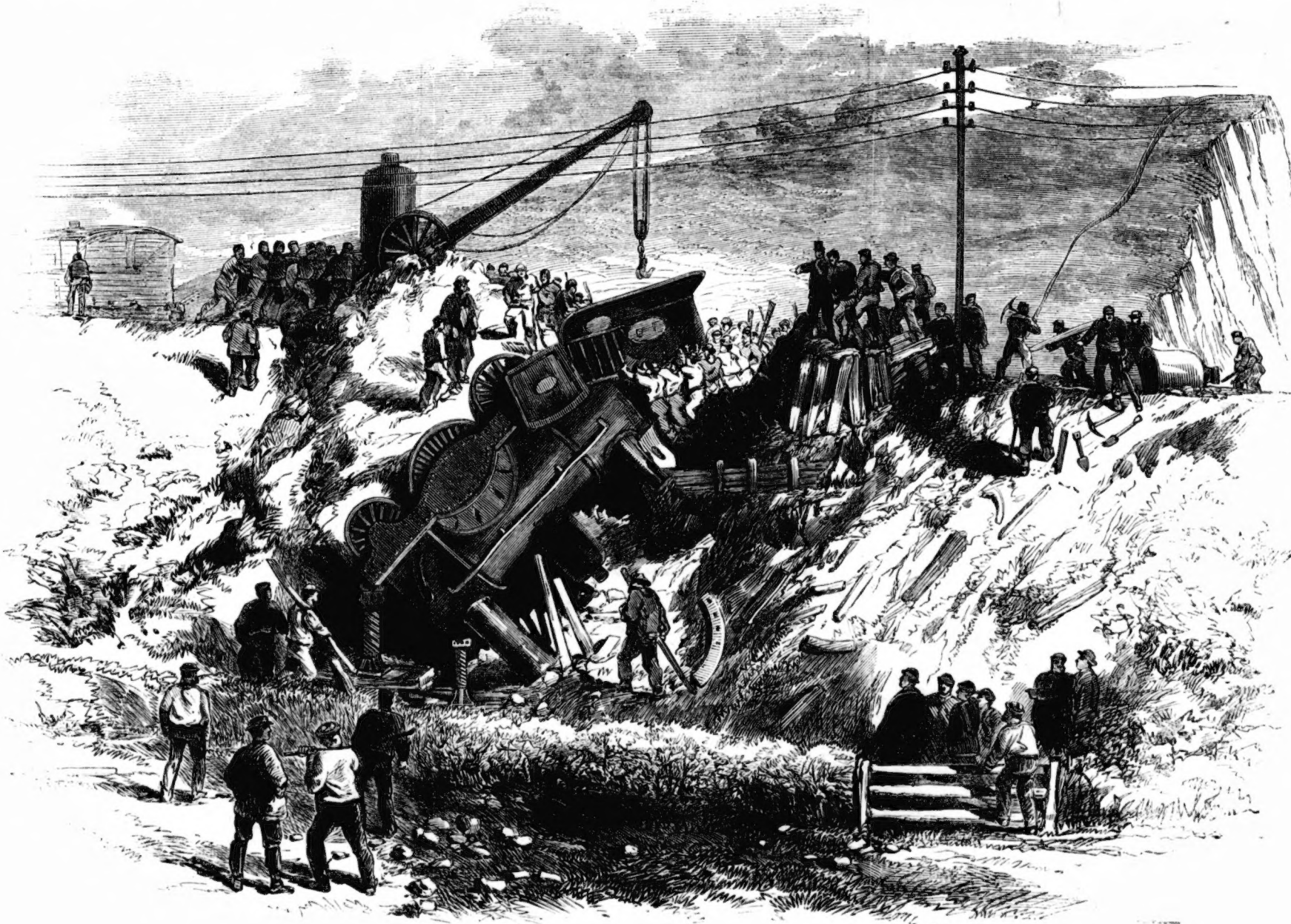
PROCESSION OF BOATS AT THE OPENING OF THE THAMES ROWING SEASON.

AMATEUR ROWING CLUBS.

On Saturday afternoon last there was a general assemblage of the metropolitan rowing clubs at Putney. Several specially chartered steamers left London Bridge freighted with ladies and gentlemen, and distinguished from the ordinary passenger boats by gay streamers flying above nearly every stanchion. The pleasures of the aquatic festival were considerably marred by the cold, driving showers which commenced just as the excursionists were leaving London Bridge and continued perseveringly during the whole of the voyage. The worst feature of the rain, however, was, that it drenched the crews, who had been for some time fidgeting about in

their boats at the usual boating rendezvous at Putney. There was nothing particularly difficult in what the boats had to do, but what was done was ably organised and conducted so as to give great pleasure to those who were present. Shortly after five o'clock, the boats having been previously stationed opposite their numbers on the towing-path, the signal to "move on" was given. It was recommended in one of the paragraphs of the printed programmes that the order to start, when given by the commodore, should be repeated in a loud voice by the various coxswains, and we should do the coxswains the justice to say that their wet garments did not prevent them from paying marked attention to the recommendation as to

loudness. The boats proceeded up the river, steering for a time near the Surrey shore, while the steamers monopolised the opposite side in order to keep pace with the boats; guns of varying calibre were fired at intervals from the banks, along which considerable crowds were posted, and the procession started amidst the plaudits of the spectators and the strains of a volunteer band on board one of the steam-boats. There appeared to be about fifty boats of twelve, eight, six, and four oars, whose crews wore their rowing-dresses; and there were about half as many ordinary shore boats, amongst which one rowed by a couple of young women, and three police wherries, were generally very conspicuous. There were pro-



THE LATE ACCIDENT AT THE CATERHAM JUNCTION ON THE BRIGHTON AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY.

bably 250 members of the amateur rowing clubs taking part in the procession. It was a very lively and pretty sight to see the little fleet of slender, freshly-painted outriggers shooting along under the sturdy and regular oarsmanship of so many smart young Londoners; and the healthy, hearty appearance of each crew, and the skill they showed in the management of their boats, said all that was required in favour of the popular amusement which employed their leisure hours. There appeared to be no kind of system in the procession, and no attempt to progress in single file, double file, or any other specified order. The boats kept moderately close to each other, and pulled at irregular speeds as near as possible in the middle of the stream through the bridges, gradually nearing the Middlesex shore, until they reached a flagboat off the Ship hostelry, at Mortlake. Here they turned and came back along the Surrey shore to the White Hart, at Barnes, where the crews were advised that the order of procession need no longer be maintained. The banks, especially on the Surrey side, and the bridges, were much crowded with spectators, and on the neighbouring road there were numbers of carriages and horsemen. The representative eights were the London Rowing Club, West London, Aisl, Twickenham, North London, Corsair, Ilex, Nautilus, Phoenix Rowing Club, Thames, King's College, Guy's, Waverley, Ino, and Alexandra.

THE LATE ACCIDENT AT CATERHAM JUNCTION.

IN our last week's Number we gave particulars of a sad accident which had occurred on the Brighton and South Coast Railway. We now publish an Engraving of the scene presented on the line after the occurrence. An inquest has, of course, been held on the bodies of the victims, at which, after the juryman had formally viewed the bodies, several witnesses were examined. The first, James Thompson, in the employment of the South Coast Railway, stated that he was the driver of the passenger-train which left Brighton on Monday evening week at eight o'clock. Charles Beckwith was the fireman. There were four guards. William Webb was the head one. One portion of the train was for the Victoria, and the other for the London Bridge terminus. The train stopped at Redhill junction. After that the next stoppage would be East Croydon. Nothing occurred up to Caterham junction, at which the signals were all right. The speed of the train at the junction was about thirty miles an hour. At the siding there, on the right-hand side of the line, he observed a train, by seeing a red light behind it. He took the train to be on the siding, and not on the main line. The collision then took place. Immediately before the collision he saw that the train, which was a ballast one, was on the main line. The engine broke away from the carriage, and went over the left embankment. As soon as he saw the trucks across the line he shut off the steam. The fireman and himself were carried over the embankment with the engine. He (witness) found the fireman under the tender. The latter was hurt about the legs. Webb had charge of the first break-van. After the accident he was found under a carriage and was taken out dead. Witness afterwards saw the driver of the ballast-train, and asked him how he got out of the siding. In reply, he said he got a signal from the signalman, who was in the semaphore signal-box at the end of the station. Witness said, "However did this job happen?" The signalman answered, "I don't know; I never gave him any signal to go on." He arrived at Redhill at 9.24. He was behind time, as he should have arrived at 9.7 by the book. There was another train to follow the Brighton at 10.20. He was aware that the Dover train preceded him. He could not tell by the light of the ballast-train whether it was in motion. He did not see it till within about forty yards of it.

Thomas Reece, the next witness, said he was a guard, and had charge of the Hastings portion of the passenger-train from Brighton. He saw two tail lamps attached to the ballast-train after leaving Caterham junction. It appeared to be on the down line. They were about 200 yards past the junction before he observed it. The rate of speed of the passenger-train was from twenty-five miles to thirty miles an hour. He felt the shock of the collision. The signals of the semaphore at the junction were at "all right." It was a white light. White signified that they might proceed with safety; green, that they might go on cautiously; and red, danger. It was quite impossible that the engine-driver could have prevented the collision. He (witness) was thrown out of his break. Had no conversation with anyone connected with the station since. When he saw the two tail lamps he also noticed a guard's hand-lamp waved. It was a red light, and on the left of the up line. The moment Thompson saw that, the steam was shut off, and he (witness) applied his break. The waving of a red hand-lamp was a sign of imminent danger.

John Carpenter, inspector of police, attached to the Brighton Railway, said he had known Jeffreys, the signalman, for years, and believed him to be thoroughly conversant with his duties. He knew Stephen Head, the head guard of the ballast-train. Witness had asked him how the accident happened. He replied that he received a hand-signal from the signalman. He then gave his driver the signal to start, seeing that the Dover train had passed and that the line was clear. Head further stated that it had been his custom to follow the Dover train. There was a distinguishing mark at the head and tail of every train, which indicated to every servant on the line what train was approaching and what train was passing. Every servant of the company was supplied with a book of instructions. It was not an unusual occurrence for the Dover train to go before the Brighton one when the latter was late. The signalman at the junction (Jeffreys) had a complete knowledge that the Dover train often preceded the other. It was left to the discretion of the station-master at Redhill to determine whether the Dover train should go on before the other.

Some further evidence was then adduced with regard to the working of the signals at the portion of the line where the collision took place, and especially in reference to a boy named Bayley, who, it appeared, held the lantern which threw the light across the metals.

The Coroner summed up at great length, and reviewed the evidence which had been brought before the jury, pointing out in detail its legal bearings upon the issue before them—whether any such culpable negligence had been shown as to substantiate a verdict by which any person or persons could be made responsible.

The jury, after a lengthened deliberation, returned the following verdict:—"That the deceased persons came by their deaths accidentally, and we, the jury, are of opinion that so far as regards the signalman Jeffreys no accusation has arisen against him. We also consider that there was a great misapprehension on the part of those in charge of the chalk-train, in consequence of the boy throwing the light across the line, and suggest that a better system should be adopted before starting such trains in future."

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—The election for the Sandwich boroughs, on Tuesday, resulted in a Conservative triumph. Mr. Capper defeating Mr. Brassey, after a severe contest, by a majority of eight. Mr. Capper replaces Lord Clarence Paget. At Stamford, Sir John Hay was elected without opposition, in the place of Sir Stafford Northcote, who resigned in order to stand for North Devon, vacant by the elevation of Mr. Trefusis to the House of Peers. Sir Stafford was elected on Wednesday without a contest. The Conservative candidates having retired at Windsor, Messrs. Bykyn and Edwards (Liberals) replace Sir H. Hoare and Mr. Labouchere, who were also Liberals. At Nottingham, Mr. Bernal Osborne and Lord Amherley (Liberals) were at the head of the poll. At Northallerton, Mr. Lascelles (Conservative) was returned.

PRINCE ALFRED AND THE CORPORATION OF LONDON.—Thursday, June 7, has been appointed for the attendance of Prince Alfred at Guildhall, to receive the freedom of the city of London, to which his Royal Highness is entitled by patrimony, he having signified to the Lord Mayor that that day would suit his convenience. The ceremony will probably take place, as usual on such occasions, in the Council Chamber, if not in the Guildhall itself, which would be a much more desirable place, holding, as it does, at least five times the number of people that could be accommodated in the Council Chamber, and having regard to the extremely attractive appearance of the interior of the hall in its restored and embellished state. On the City Lands Committee the duty will devolve of making the necessary preparations for giving all due dignity and effect to the proceedings; and they have a precedent for resorting to the great hall on the occasion in the fact that it was there the Prince of Wales received the freedom of the Corporation on the memorable visit of his Royal Highness and the Princess of Wales to the City shortly after their marriage.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MME. MARIA VILDA is fast becoming one of the greatest favourites, as she is already one of the brightest ornaments, of our lyric stage. Her voice is strong, firm, brilliant, and full of volume. Like Jane Eyre's lover and husband she is "encore jeune." Indeed, she is arithmetically about ten, and effectively at least twenty, years younger than Mr. Rochester (to whom, personally, she bears no resemblance); but, unfortunately, her period of early youth is over. She has wasted some ten years of her life, during which, instead of singing at private concerts where it is impossible that she can have been sufficiently appreciated, she ought to have been delighting the audiences of the Royal Italian Opera. Let us not be mistaken, however. Mme. Maria Vilda is now in her prime. Her voice is fully developed and in such admirable condition, that the more she exerts it the fuller and richer it appears. Certainly, she never strains it, but it is so powerful and so supple that to do so would be next to impossible. Already, Mme. Vilda seems to have improved as an actress—which probably, however, only amounts to this, that she is getting accustomed to the theatre and to her audience, with whom she has every reason to be pleased. Hitherto, Mme. Vilda has appeared only as Norma. Her next part, we believe, will be Donna Anna in "Don Giovanni."

Gluck's "Iphigenia in Tauris" has been produced at Her Majesty's Theatre with remarkable success. We defer speaking of it until after the second performance, which is fixed for Tuesday.

Of Mme. Grisi's last appearance in public we need not say much, for the simple reason that now Mme. Grisi really has appeared for the last time. She was to have played some half a dozen parts this season, but her performance of that of "Lucrezia Borgia" was quite enough for the public, and too much for Mme. Grisi herself. After the second act, this once celebrated vocalist was with difficulty persuaded to go on singing until the end of the opera. The artist, who for a quarter of a century had reigned supreme in lyric tragedy, and who during that period had enjoyed an amount of public favour such as never, we believe, fell to the lot of any other singer, had actually been hissed! This was more than "la diva" of former days could bear; and if Mme. Grisi had yielded to the first impulse she would have retired finally from the stage on Saturday, May 5, after the second act of "Lucrezia." Instead of this she retired on the day in question after the third act.

The Monday Popular Concert of this week was for the benefit of Mme. Arabella Goddard. This lady is the only pianist we know of who is equally successful in the classical and in the bravura, or, perhaps, we should say the fantasia, style. Thus she has two distinct reputations. At benefit concerts, miscellaneous concerts, and such concerts as Mme. Goddard generally gives when she is on a provincial tour, she is for the most part heard in "airs with variations," and other elaborate pieces of display, which the "classical" pianists are generally unable to execute with the particular sort of expression and with the lightness of touch that such compositions require. But nothing of this kind is ever heard at the Monday Popular Concerts, or at the concerts given from time to time in London by Mme. Goddard herself. Here she plays nothing but classical music; and numbers of amateurs who have only listened to her performances of Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and we may add Dussek—for whose music Mme. Goddard has a particular liking, which she has easily communicated to her audiences—would perhaps be astonished to find that this thorough artist, to whom no music of the grand school is unfamiliar, is also one of the most brilliant exponents of the class of pieces particularly associated with the names of Thalberg and Liszt. On the occasion of her benefit, Mme. Goddard played Beethoven's sonata in D minor, and afterwards took part with Herr Straus, the violinist, in one of Dussek's duets, and with Herr Straus and Signor Piatti (violinist) in a trio by Mendelssohn.

MR. W. N. HODGSON, M.P., met with a serious accident through his horse taking fright on the steep hill to the north of Edenbridge, near Carlisle, on Wednesday. The animal ran away and dashed the vehicle against the parapet of the bridge. Mr. Hodgson was thrown out, and fell heavily on his head upon the edge of the flagged footway, sustaining an extensive scalp wound, which bled profusely; he also had a rib broken. He remained insensible for more than an hour, but rallied a little at night. His condition is still dangerous.

SUICIDE BY A DOG.—A few days since a fine dog, which was known by the name of "Braco," and belonged to Mr. George Hone, of Frindsbury, near Rochester, committed a deliberate act of suicide by drowning, in the Medway, at Upnor, Chatham. The dog, a fine animal, had from some cause been suspected of having given indications of approaching hydrophobia, and was accordingly shunned and kept as much as possible from the house. This treatment appeared to cause him much annoyance, and for some days he was observed to be moody and morose, but still without any appearance of becoming rabid. One morning he was seen to leave his house and proceed to the residence of an intimate acquaintance of his master at Upnor, on reaching which he set up a piteous cry on finding that he could not obtain admittance. After waiting at the house some little time, he was seen to go towards the river close by, when he descended the bank, and, after turning round and giving a kind of farewell howl, walked into the stream, where he kept his head under water, and in a minute or two rolled over dead. This extraordinary act of suicide was witnessed by several persons. The manner of the death proved pretty clearly that the animal was not suffering from hydrophobia.

CASH AND ECONOMY.—A very remarkable and promising development of the spirit of economy which has lately sprung up in the west of London has appeared in the shape of a "Cash Payment Association," which has been formed under the auspices of a number of noblemen and gentlemen, and is actually in operation in Waterloo-place. The association has made arrangements with nearly 300 leading tradesmen of the metropolis, whereby these tradesmen undertake to give all bearers of the association tickets reductions, or discounts, on their ordinary retail prices of from 15 to 25 per cent. This is a commercial development of the co-operative system which members of the Civil Service have lately established with such extraordinary success. There can be no doubt of the good that must spring from such movements. In the first place, the credit system, which tempts so many into difficulties, is abated; and, in the second place, the man of fixed income (who should always be able to pay cash) saves 15 per cent of this income, let him only invest the money he saves by buying at wholesale instead of retail prices; and, if he be a man of fair income, he may make a handsome provision for his family, with no increase of his present expenditure under the wasteful credit system of exorbitant prices. He buys an annual ticket for 10s.; and then, without risk or trouble of any kind, he saves, if he be a man of £500 a year income, about £50. In these dear times, against which her Majesty's Civil Servants are wisely providing by their co-operative societies, an association that enables the middle classes generally to buy necessities at a reduced price deserves the cordial support and sympathy of the public.

VICTORIA PARK.—On Saturday evening, a meeting of the working classes assembled in Victoria Park, owing to a special announcement having been distributed throughout the locality that the Imperial and two other gas companies had obtained a bill in the House of Lords for the concentration of the largest works in the world within 300 yards of the park. The meeting was held for the purpose of adopting such means as would prevent the erection of such premises. The Rev. Septimus Hansard, Rector of Bethnal-green, presided. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, referred to the object which had brought them together. He said that the inhabitants of the east end of London had a right to call upon the Houses of Parliament to preserve intact the only recreation ground they had. If a proposition were made to erect gasworks near Hyde Park or St. James's Park, the whole of the House of Commons would have an attack of indigestion for a month. If gasworks were erected in that neighbourhood the park would be destroyed and the herbage poisoned and blighted. He was, however, sure that if the working men acted with unanimity the House of Commons would be with them. He asked them to take immediate action, and, by petition, show, on Monday night, their direct feeling against the bill. Mr. Hicks moved the first resolution:—"That this meeting views with alarm the bill now pending in Parliament for the erection of stupendous gasworks in the immediate neighbourhood of Victoria Park, and determines to present a petition immediately to the House of Commons praying that the bill may not pass." He hoped the House of Commons would have common-sense, and that the House of Lords would not laudably, and throw out the bill. Mr. Coles seconded the motion, which was put and unanimously carried. Mr. Althams moved, and Mr. Westall seconded, the second resolution:—"That a petition, signed by the inhabitants of the east of London, be presented to her Majesty, praying her to protect the rights of her poorer subjects, who are not able to protect themselves." It was unanimously carried. Mr. Horner then moved, and Mr. Bishop seconded, the following resolution:—"That a committee be formed to carry out the resolutions passed at this meeting and use their utmost endeavours to oppose the bill." This resolution being also unanimously passed, a committee of several gentlemen was appointed to further the object in view.

CÆSAR RESOLVES TO CROSS THE RUBICON.

THE following passages are extracted from the closing chapter of the second volume of the Emperor Napoleon's "Cæsar," the translation of which has just been published by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin:—

Whilst at Rome all was confusion, and Pompey, nominal chief of his party, underwent its various exigencies and impulses, Cæsar, master of himself and free in his resolutions, waited quietly at Ravenna until the thoughtless impetuosity of his enemies should break itself against his firmness and the justice of his cause. The tribunes of the people, Mark Antony and Q. Cassius, accompanied by Curio and M. Cælius, hasten to him. At the news of the events in Rome he sends couriers to the other side of the Alps, in order to unite his army; but, without waiting for it, he assembles the 13th Legion, the only one which had crossed the Alps; he reminds his soldiers, in a few words, of the ancient insults and the recent injustices of which he is the victim.

Unanimous acclamations respond to this speech of Cæsar. The soldiers of the 13th Legion declare that they are ready to make the greatest sacrifices; they will revenge their General and the tribunes of the people for all these outrages. As a proof of his devotion, each centurion offers to entertain a horseman at his expense; each soldier to serve gratuitously, the richer ones providing for the poorer ones; and during the whole civil war, Suetonius affirms, not one of them failed in this engagement. Such was the devotedness of the army; Labienus alone, whom Cæsar loved especially, whom he had loaded with favours, deserted the cause of the conqueror of Gaul and passed over to Pompey. Cicero and his party thought that this deserter would bring a great addition to their strength. But Labienus, though an able General under Cæsar, was only an indifferent one in the opposite camp. Desertions have never made any man great.

The moment for action had arrived. Cæsar was reduced to the alternative of maintaining himself at the head of his army, in spite of the Senate, or surrendering himself to his enemies, who would have reserved for him the fate of the accomplices of Catiline, who had been condemned to death, if he were not, like the Gracchi, Saturninus, and so many others, killed in a popular tumult. Here the question naturally offers itself: Ought not Cæsar, who had so often faced death on the battle-fields, have gone to Rome to face it under another form, and to have renounced his command, rather than engage in a struggle which must throw the Republic into all the horrors of a civil war? Yes, if by his abnegation he could save Rome from anarchy, corruption, and tyranny. No, if this abnegation would endanger what he had most at heart—the regeneration of the Republic. Cæsar, like men of his temper, cared little for life, and still less for power for the sake of power; but, as chief of the popular party, he felt a great cause rise behind him; it urged him forward and obliged him to conquer in despite of legality, the imprecations of his adversaries, and the uncertain judgment for posterity. Roman society in a state of dissolution asked for a master; oppressed Italy for a representative of its rights; the world bowed under the yoke for a saviour. Ought he by deserting this mission disappoint so many legitimate hopes, so many noble aspirations? It would have been madness. The question had not the mean proportions of a quarrel between two generals who contended for power; it was the decisive conflict between two hostile causes, between the privileged classes and the people; it was the continuation of the formidable struggle between Marius and Sulla.

There are imperious circumstances which condemn public men either to abnegation or to perseverance. To cling to power when one is no longer able to do good, and when, as a representative of the past, one has, as it were, no partisans but among those who live upon abuses, is a deplorable obstinacy; to abandon it when one is the representative of a new era, and the hope of a better future, is a cowardly act and a crime. Cæsar has taken his resolution. He began the conquest of Gaul with four legions; he is going to commence that of the world with one only. He must, first of all, by a surprise, take possession of Ariminum (Rimini), the first important fortress of Italy on the side of Cisalpine Gaul. For this purpose he sends before him a detachment composed of trusty soldiers and centurions commanded by Q. Hortensius; he places a part of his cavalry in echelon on the road. When evening arrives, pretending an indisposition, he leaves his officers, who were at table, enters a chariot with a few friends, and joins his vanguard. When he arrives at the Rubicon, a stream which formed the limit of his government, and which the laws forbade him to cross, he halts for a moment as though struck with terror; he communicates his apprehensions to Asinius Pollio and those who surround him. A comet has appeared in the sky; he foresees the misfortunes which are on the point of befalling Italy, and recoils the dream which the night before had oppressed his mind. . . . Then suddenly an apparition, it is said, strikes the eyes of Cæsar; it is a man of tall stature, blowing martial airs on a trumpet, and calling him to the other bank. All hesitation ceases; he hurries onward and crosses the Rubicon, exclaiming "The die is cast! Let us go where I am called by the prodigies of the gods and the iniquities of my enemies." Soon he arrived at Ariminum, of which he takes possession without striking a blow. The civil war has commenced!

"The true author of war," says Montesquieu, "is not he who declares it, but he who renders it necessary." It is not granted to man, notwithstanding his genius and power, to raise at will the popular waves; yet, when elected by the public voice, he appears in the midst of the storm which endangers the vessel of the State, then he alone can direct its course and bring it to the harbour. Cæsar was not, therefore, the instigator of this profound perturbation of Roman society; he had become the indispensable pilot. Had it been otherwise, when he disappeared all would have returned to order; on the contrary, his death gave up the whole universe to all the horrors of war. Europe, Asia, Africa, were the theatre of sanguinary struggles between the past and the future, and the Roman world did not find peace until the heir of his name had made his cause triumph. But it was no longer possible for Augustus to renew the work of Cæsar; fourteen years of civil war had exhausted the strength of the nation and used up the characters; the men imbued with the great principles of the past were dead; the survivors had alternately served all parties; to succeed, Augustus himself had made peace with the murderers of his adoptive father; the convictions were extinct, and the world, longing for rest, no longer contained the elements which would have permitted Cæsar, as was his intention, to re-establish the Republic in its ancient splendour and its ancient forms, but on new principles.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.—The third and final report of the Cattle Plague Commission has just been issued. It considers scientifically the symptoms, nature, origin, method of propagation, and treatment of the disease. As was stated in their second report, the Commissioners requested some of the most eminent physicians, veterinary surgeons, and chemists of the day to investigate the cattle plague from various scientific points of view. The reports made by these gentlemen are printed in the appendix to the report of the Commissioners. Some of them represent that their investigations might with advantage be carried still further, and the Commissioners recommend these suggestions to the consideration of the Government. But enough has already been ascertained to supply us with some valuable results. They renew the recommendation for the slaughter or quarantine of cattle at the ports of disembarkation, and urge that advantage should be taken of the present opportunity to render permanent those alterations in the supply of meat to large towns which it has been proved could be effected with such little comparative inconvenience. From the opinions of the Commissioners that the disease is purely contagious, and that no method of treatment or disinfection can be relied on, the conclusion is obvious that our measures must be almost entirely directed towards preventing contagion, and that such measures should be both stringent and continuous.

WHY INDEED?—A series of experiments has been conducted for some time past by the municipality of Paris, in order to test the comparative merits of the Lemoiné and Ballaion steam-locomotives employed in crushing and consolidating the broken granite laid on the streets of that city. It has at last been decided that the Ballaion locomotive is the better of the two. It has two rollers, the engine being between them, and the boiler on one of them. The motion is communicated by a chain. With fuel and water the weight of the Ballaion steam-roller is 14½ tons, with springs; and an iron framework, 15½ tons. Its force is 10-horse power, and its consumption of coal about 1600 per horse. It does its work in half the time and at half the cost that would be required were the work done by rollers drawn by horses; and the work is done more rapidly and completely. It may now be seen at all hours of the day crushing smooth the granite of the new boulevards of Paris; in the more crowded thoroughfares it works only at night. Why should it not be tried in London?—*Full Mail Gazette.*

SEAGOING MONITORS.—"The man who would send a ship's company to sea on board a monitor ought to be tried for wilful murder when they go down in her!" Such was the opinion of a very distinguished officer of her Majesty's Navy, expressed before a number of professional people, of whom the majority agreed with him, not many months ago. Such, indeed, may be said to have been, in general terms, the result of the opinions held respecting the monitors and their sea-worthiness by the great mass of those who thought at all about the matter. The leading journal and many other newspapers, discussing the Cole's controversy on the turret principle, have always held that it was a problem whether monitors could make sea voyages, or were fit for ought but harbour defence. Whatever may be said about the claims of the Americans to originality in the matter of turrets and ironclads, there can be no doubt at all that they have built a seagoing monitor—one, too, of the most formidable character. A vessel which has navigated the Atlantic at the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico, which has coasted the eastern shores of South America in spring time, and, finally, has gone round the Horn in rough weather in the worst period of the year, and got through her work to the perfect satisfaction of her officers and men, is a seagoing craft of the most complete adaptation to the business of seagoing in any part of the globe. But when we know that this vessel, though only 15 in. above the water level, carries the largest guns in the world, and throws 480 lb. shot with a 60-lb. charge of powder, we must admit she is at least worthy of considerable attention from any maritime people, and demands the serious thoughts of any Government interested in naval affairs. There will be no laurels now for Captain Cowper Coles, or the Naval Constructor, or any one else, in the demonstration of that which has been proved already. At least, we suppose so. The whole story cannot be a myth.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

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 Diagonal Indian Poplins, £1 7s. 6d. 12 yards; 30 inches wide.
 The new Pekin Cloth, 18s. 9d.
 Soie de Crystal, 14 guineas.
 The new Tissue de l'Indie, £1 15s. 6d.
 Patterns post-free.
 AMOTT and COMPANY, 61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

AMOTT'S NEW FANCY SILKS.
 New Checked and Striped Silks, 2s. 4½d. to 4s. 6d. per yard.
 Small Pattern Silks, for Young Ladies, £1 3s. 6d., £1 7s. 6d., £1 15s. 6d.
 New Colours and Designs, 14 guineas.
 New Paris Fancy Silks, 2s. 15s. 6d.
 Thirty Shades in the new Japanese Silk, £2 7s. 6d. 15 yards.
 Rich Coloured Lyons Glacés, £2 15s. 6d. 15 yards.
 Plain and Fancy Gros Grains, 3 guineas, 15 guineas.
 Rich Italian Silks, 3½ guineas 16 yards.
 Patterns, representing £20,000 stock, post-free.
 AMOTT and COMPANY, 61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

WHERE TO BUY A DRESS THIS SEASON. The following are a few of the LOTS now SELLING at BROOKS and CO.'S, 100, 105, High-street, Borough, Southwark.
 An Immense Variety of the New Striped Poplins, 10½d. the yard; usual price, 1s. 3d.
 The same Style printed on Mousseline de Laine, 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. the Dress, 12 yards.
 A large quantity of De Laine, Striped Alpaca, &c., 7s. 6d. the 12 yards; some of these goods worth double the price.
 150 Pieces of printed Glacé Alpaca, 8s. 6d. the yard.
 Plain Glacé Alpaca from 6s. to 12s. the yard.
 100 Pieces of new Striped Alpaca, Black and white, brown and white, and violet and white, in all widths, 10½d. the yard; original price 1s. 3d.
 Elegantly trimmed made-up Robes, with materials for bodices, from 10s. to 25s., the latter made of excellent material and great novelty in the trimming.
 Together with several thousand Dresses of Striped and Châle Poplins, Laines, De Laine, Grenadines, Mullins, &c., forming one of the largest stocks of cheap Dresses in London.
 Observe the address above. Three minutes' walk from London Bridge railway.

PELOLINE DE ROUBAIX, Plain and Striped, in all the New Colours, at 17s. 6d. the Full Dress. Decidedly the most desirable and best article of the season. The second quality at 14s. 6d., 12s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. the Dress. An abundance of New Styles in Châle, Mohair, Arabian Lustre, Fancy Alpaca, &c. These varieties have been carefully selected to give entire satisfaction in wear. French Merinos, double width, at 2s. the yard. 25,000 dresses, during the past season, have been supplied to the public by this firm, without a single complaint. Patterns sent free. HARVEY and CO., Lambeth House, Westminster Bridge, S.

SILK DRESSES FOR MORNING or EVENING WEAR, delicately printed by French artists on Violet, Green, Buff, Blue, Brown, White, and Black Grounds, at 35s. 9d. the Full Dress. Paris present price, 60 francs. Patterns sent.—HARVEY and CO., Lambeth House, Westminster Bridge, S.

GOOD BLACK GLACÉ SILKS, 2s. 3½d., 2s. 6½d., and 2s. 11½d., extra wide and stout, 3s. 11d., 4s. 11d., and 5s. 11d.; New Fancy Coloured Silks, a cheap lot, 2s. 9½d. and 2s. 11½d., cut in any lengths.
 New Show-Rooms recently opened for Ladies' and Children's made-up Dresses, Skirts, Mantles, Jackets, &c. Baby Linen and under clothing. Lists free by post.—HENRY GLAVE, THE ARCADE, 534 to 537, New Oxford-street.

BOWS, Plaits, Braids, Bands, Wigs, Fronts, &c., and every other description of Ornamental Hair, all of the first quality. COLLETT, Fawcett, and Manufacturer to her Majesty, Queen's Works, Alcester, and 47, Gresham-street, London. Established 75 years.

FAMILY MOURNING

is sent free for selection to all parts of England immediately on receipt of "note or telegram," accompanied by a superior-fitting dressmaker (if necessary), affording to families by this means a great saving of time and expense.
 Address PETER ROBINSON, General Mourning Warehouse, 256 to 262, Regent-street, W. The largest and most economical in the kingdom.

RIBBED BLACK SILKS, at 2s. 11½d. This remarkably cheap and useful Silk is alike on both sides. A pattern will be forwarded free on application to PETER ROBINSON, General Mourning Warehouse, 256 to 262, Regent-street, W.

BLACK SILKS at last summer's prices. 220,000 of Black Silks, from 2 to 6 guineas the Full Dress.
 Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON, General Mourning Warehouse, 256 to 262, Regent-street, W.

BAKER and CRISP'S CHEAP SILKS. Patterns free. The largest assortment of good, useful, and pretty Silks, at the most economical prices.—H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

SILKS! SILKS! SILKS! All the Novelties in French and Spitalfields Stripes, Checks, Figured, Corded, Plain and Fancy Glacé Gros Grains, and other Silks, from £1 15s. 6d. Full Dress.—H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

FOULARD SILKS.—BAKER and CRISP have now some extraordinary Cheap lots of beautiful Foulards, from 25s. 6d. Full Dress. Patterns free.
 H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street, London.

BLACK SILKS! BLACK SILKS! Patterns free. Rich bright, wide, and durable Black Silks, in every make, from £1 5s. 6d. Full Dress.—H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

GROS DE LONDRES CABLE CORD, £12s. 6d. This beautiful Black Silk is guaranteed to wear by H. Crisp. Every lady requiring a very superior Black Dress, should write for patterns of the Gros de Londres, Cachemere de Soie, and Black Figured Silks. H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

BAKER and CRISP'S NEW FANCY DRESS MATERIALS, patterns free.—The largest assortment of good and useful Dress in the kingdom, at the most economical prices. The new Arabian Glacés, Foulards, Poplins, Camlets, Chambrays, Grenadines, Challies, Delaines, &c., from 7s. 6d. to 1 guinea Full Dress.
 H. Crisp, 198, Regent-street.

GLOVES, guaranteed the VERY BEST, all at 2s. 9d. pair. The world-wide noted Alpine Kid, 1s. 6d.; sample for 2 extra stamps.
 H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

A SPECIALITY.—JAPANESE SILKS. BAKER and CRISP have just imported a large lot of these beautiful Silks, in Plain and Self Colours, Shepherd Checks and Stripes, and are selling them under Two Pounds the Dress.
 Patterns free.—198, Regent-street.

LAST YEAR'S MUSLINS, Barège, Balzarine, Mohairs, Grenadines, Chambrays, and other Light Fabrics, at Half the Original Cost. All the New Cambrics. Patterns free.—H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

MOURNING and HALF-MOURNING FABRICS.—BAKER and CRISP'S assortment of Dresses in this department exceeds that of any Mourning House in the Kingdom, at about 25 per cent less in price. Patterns free.
 H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

1500 BLACK SPANISH LACE SHAWLS, at 12s. 6d., 15s., and 1 guinea to 3 guineas each. These goods were purchased last winter under very advantageous circumstances, and are now selling at little more than half price. Samples free.—H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

3000 DOZEN OF HEMMED-STITCHED CAMBRIC HANDKERCHIEFS, all at 15s. and 1 guinea the Dozen, post-free.
 H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

WHITE GRENADINES, Black Grenadines, Plain Grenadines, Broché Grenadines, Grenadines for wedding, confirmations, balls, or fêtes. The largest assortment in the kingdom, from 3s. 9d. to 1 guinea, Full Dress. Patterns free.—H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

MANTLES! MANTLES! Made-up Dresses, &c.—All the new and useful styles in the new Show-rooms. Beautiful Mantles from 18s. 6d. to 10 guineas. Made-up Dresses from 12s. 6d.
 H. CRISP, 198, Regent-street, London.

JOHN HARVEY and SON, Gloucester House, Ludgate-hill. Spring Silks and Dresses.

NEW SILKS.—PATTERNS FREE. New Striped Glacés, £2 9s. 6d., 14 yards.
 New Checked Glacés, £2 15s. 6d., 14 yards.
 Gros de Suez, New Colours, £3 6s. 6d., 14 yards.

NEW COLOURED GLACÉS.—Patterns free. Plain, Checked, and Striped, £2 15s. 6d., 14 yards.
 Fancy, Coloured, and Châle Glacés, £2 15s. 6d., 14 yards.
 Gros de Suez, New Colours, £3 6s. 6d., 14 yards.

LENO CURTAINS, 14s. 6d., 18s. 6d., 25s. 6d. per pair, 4 yards long. A large variety of elegant and cheap designs. Embroidered Leno Curtains, 4½ yards long, 4s. per pair.
 JOHN HARVEY and SON, Ludgate-hill.

MESSRS. SWAN and EDGAR, having completed extensive additions to their premises, beg leave to announce that on MONDAY, MAY 14, they will OPEN a NEW and SPACIOUS SALOON for the accommodation of their Silk Department. The Stock they will then be prepared to submit—having been provided expressly for the occasion, and consisting of every description of Plain and Fancy Silks, Satins, &c., together with a choice selection of the Latest Novelties which have appeared in the Paris and Lyons markets—will be found to be well deserving of attention.
 At the same time will be opened a new department exclusively devoted to Family and Complimentary Mourning and a suite of show-rooms for the display of Fashions in Evening and Ball Costume, with articles of real and imitation Lace, in Mantles, Squares, Pointes, Foulards, Tulle, Bridal Sets and Corsages. An inspection is respectfully invited.
 Floodily and Regent-street.

SEWELL and CO. invite inspection to their NEW WALKING DRESSES, made-up SKIRTS, &c., in all the new SPRING TEXTURES. COMPTON HOUSE, Frith-street, Soho-square, W.

MOIRES ANTIQUES. SEWELL and CO. have the largest and best selection of Spitalfields Moires Antiques, in White, Black, and all the new Colours, at 4 guineas the Full Dress.
 COMPTON HOUSE, Frith-street and Old Compton-st., Soho-sq., W.

DECCA SHAWLS.—FARMER and ROGERS have just received, direct from India, several cases of handsome Decca Cashmere Shawls, which they are now selling at nearly half the original price.
 Also, some Magnificent Gold-Worked Shawls and Scarfs, suitable for the Opera.
 India Shawls, for Wedding Presents, from 100 to 800 guineas.
 171, 173, 175, 179, Regent-street.

MANTLES, JACKETS, ROBES, &c. FARMER and ROGERS are now prepared with their New Fashions for the Season.
 India Shawl Warehouses, by Appointment, to her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. the Princess of Wales.
 171, 173, 175, 179, Regent-street.

THE ARMENIAN SHAWL.—The greatest novelty introduced for many years. FARMER and ROGERS are the only Agents in England for this new and beautiful Patent Shawl.
 "All the effect of an Indian Shawl, at one third the price."—See "Morning Post."
 171, 173, 175, 179, Regent-street.

LUDGATE-HILL STATION NOW OPEN in connection with the Farringdon-street Station; either within three minutes' walk of T. SIMPSON and COMPANY, Wholesale and Retail Drapers and Silkmercers. The largest Stock of really good and cheap Silks, General Drapery, and Fancy Goods. Black Glacés, from 1s. 11½d. to 16s. 9d.; Silk Velvets, from 1s. 11½d. to 4s. 9s. 6d. and 5s. 9s. 6d. Regent-street, City.

BIRTHDAY and WEDDING PRESENTS.

PARKINS and GOTTO, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, London.

WRITING and DRESSING CASES,

PURSES, POCKET-BOOKS, and Card-cases,

PORTRAIT ALBUMS, of the Best Make.

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THE 2s. PRIZE WRITING-CASE,

by post for 28 stamps. 260,000 already sold. The cheapest article ever manufactured. PARKINS and GOTTO, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, London, W.

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 Useful Envelopes 3s. 6d. per 1000.
 Thick Ditto 4s. 6d. per 1000.

120 SHEETS of NOTE-PAPER for 6d.

120 Ditto of Thick Ditto for 1s. PARKINS and GOTTO, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, London, W.

PARKINS and GOTTO'S CROQUET. By far the largest and best-assorted stock in London. Prices, 15s., 18s., 21s., 25s., 30s., 40s., 50s., and 60s. Sent to any railway station in England, carriage paid, on receipt of a post-office order. The 30s. set is full size, very strong and useful. No better can be made than the Club Boxwood 80s. set. Descriptive List post-free.—Parkins and Gotto, 27 and 28, Oxford-street, London, W.

PICTURE-FRAMES for MAY-BLOSSOMS, given with the "Illustrated London News." Framed in handsome gilt moulding, glass, and back, 3s.; by the dozen, 2s. 6s. Wide maple and gilt, 5s.; by the dozen, 4s.—GEORGE REES, 57, Drury-lane, and 34, St. Martin's-lane. Established 1800.

THE ARCADE, New Oxford-street. HENRY GLAVE, 534 to 537, New Oxford-street, and No. 1 to 6, Arcade adjoining. Bargains in Spring Dresses—Glacé Mohairs, 6s. 9d. and 7s. 11d.; Châle Mohairs, 8s. 11d. and 12s. 9d.; Black Ground Foulards, 12s. 9d. the Dress of twelve yards.

WANTED.—LEFT-OFF CLOTHES, &c. Mr. or Mrs. L. DAVIS, 2, Crawford-st., Baker-st., W., attends Ladies and Gentlemen, privately, to purchase Wearing Apparel, Uniforms, Jewellery, Diamonds, Plate, &c.; or, Parcels being sent, Post-office orders remitted the same day. Est. 64 years. Terms cash.

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